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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

ONE of the contemporaries of Alcibiades, in speaking of that hero, said that it was a bad thing to rear a lion in the city; but that if you did so, you had better put up with him. We may say much the same of intervention. It is a bad thing, abstractedly, to meddle with foreign Governments; but if you begin, you had better go through with it. By leaving Bomba alone altogether we might have avoided some trouble; by meddling, and then retreating, we do mischief and incur disgrace.

The objection to Bomba is not that he is a king, or that he is a Bourbon, but that he is Bomba. Mr. Gladstone is as much opposed to him as Louis Blanc. The objection is that he is a tyrant—the provocation is that he is a petty tyrant. Cats belong to the same species as tigers; but if a cat goes mad, we do not spare it because tigers are difficult to get at. Why hit Bomba, and not bigger bullies than Bomba? Why? because a little justice is better than no justice at all. We are not to be tied down to doing nothing because we cannot do everything. Gordon Cummings are rare, but let us not therefore undervalue the ratecatcher.

We think that, if Bomba were fairly coerced into some retrograde step in despotism—into an *amende* to Europe and his subjects,—the moral effect would be good. Are we never to interfere except to protect sovereigns? Are we unable to interfere? Why, where is the old power of England gone? Our grandfathers used to be at war with nearly all Europe at once, and yet were jollier fellows in private, and flooded far more Port than we! Surely we have lost heart, or how is it that we boggle over every bit of business we take in hand, and hesitate and tremble about doing what we have made up our minds to be right?

* What statesmen fear from a thorough-going treatment of Bomba is plain enough,—they fear revolution. Europe is so sick that she dreads violent exercise, because it may bring on fits. The carefulness is wise and prudent, no doubt; but in this matter, as in every other, the most prudent thing is decision. Let Bomba fairly off, and you only secure a worse difficulty by and bye. Italian discontent is a permanent and habitual thing, and if you do not meet it now, you will have to meet it in worse forms.

The present opportunity is good. The close of the war has weakened the prestige of despotism in the person of the soundest and best-established despot going. It has not done all that it might, but it has done enough for this. The Russian threat of sending a squadron is not so terrible, when everybody knows that she only purchased the power of sending one out by the loss of armies, forts, a fleet, a town, and the rule of a sea. How much greater would that threat have sounded a few—very few—years ago, when our naval men hardly knew whether Russia had not been secretly growing into a naval Power! But there are signs that that great organisation is recovering itself fast, and therefore we ought to strike our blow before the influence that the West has gained by the war is lost. We do not for a moment believe that a Russian ship would fire a gun.

If, then, the opportunity is lost, and nothing effectual done, we are not in the same—we are in a worse—position than we were before we interfered with Naples at all. All over Europe, the French and English Alliance will have been convicted of a failure. To what else can the retreat, then, be attributed, but to a “hitch” in the alliance itself? At best, people will conclude that the difficulties of Napoleon’s position are weighing heavily on him; that the gossip one hears from France of his ill-health, national finance embarrassments, and popular discontent, is but too true.

The most important feature of the Naples difficulty, is that, whichever way we now decide, we establish a precedent for our policy. The world is waiting to see how we start in the new era. With the

war an epoch closed. The whole face of the world is changed since England thought it her business to take up the cudgels for kings generally. It was an exceedingly expensive process, and was repaid by very little gratitude. Our line now should be more in accordance with our free traditions,—to interfere with foreign nations as little as possible, and when we do, to interfere only in the cause of constitutional freedom. When we do that, we act harmoniously, and have a good broad basis to act upon. Lord Palmerston owes his popularity—which, in his case, amounts to his owing his power—to the vulgar notion that he aimed at this in his foreign policy. Of late people have begun to rank this notion among vulgar errors, and the result of the Naples difficulty will determine it once and for all.

The public “apathy” still continues a subject of complaint, though it is a symptom which we always handle very tenderly. It is because

this subject is like that of the Maine Liquor Law, on which Lord Stanley so prettily handled — Pope, Esq. We do not want too much centralisation, but we must have some; just as we do not like too much drinking, but are resolute not to be robbed of our glass. The thing lies in a nutshell. We must have central powers in proportion as local ones fail, and there is really no choice in the matter. Why do all railways lead to London, and why do people who are going there say they are going “up?” Not because any class of men deliberately resolves to raise London, but because the English people choose to gather there. It is part of the course of events, and has been going on for hundreds of years. The ten gentlemen (say) who rule from Downing Street, in our age, represent the ten who would, some centuries since, have been acting as little kings in ten different districts. We can fancy a gentleman, who loved local

rule, going down into Essex in these prosaic days, to look for his rulers. Where, he asks, are your governing men? Where are Montfichet and Piperell, Lacy and Bigod? “Law bless you, sir!” the rustic would answer (looking up from his bread and dripping), “this be Squire Blogg’s—that be the Alderman’s, sir.” He would be very lucky—our traveller—if he found even the graves of the people he wanted. But those who represent them (if any) are obliged to “centralise.” Why does not the Queen hold levees at Windsor, or the Parliament sit at Oxford? There is no reason but the public convenience; and there is no other reason why the scores of items which make up centralisation should be carried out one by one.

When the Police Act (which Lord Paunure talks of extending) came up, there were plenty to regret the old constable—there were plenty to express jealousy of the new police; but we never heard one man prove that farm-yard poultry were safe under the existing system. County robberies were a growing nuisance; and you could not afford to sacrifice so many geese annually, for the luxury of having no more constables than had been found needful a century ago.

No doubt, all this movement strengthens the central power of the kingdom and concentrates it. This is obvious; and considering the way in which population masses itself, and the state of that population, we see greater need of this concentration than it is incumbent on us to describe now. But is not our liberty in danger? If it is, do not blame the centralisation—blame the things which make centralisation necessary.

One great danger to our “liberty” is from a source distinct from that of Downing Street—from the accumulation of estates in the hands of private families, giving them an undue weight in the Government, establishing little tyrannies, and crushing individual energy and independence. These have their constitutional value likewise, no doubt; but there may be too much of a good thing. We have a knot of little “centralisations” interfering with the action of the constitution, and far less genuine and healthy than the great centre of

centres itself. The House of Commons is corrupted by them, the administration jobbed by them, and the public spirit of the country debauched by them. When England really sets herself to internal reforms (which she will not do while the funds are healthy), one of her greatest tasks will be to meet this phenomenon. It will then be necessary to explain to the public in what aristocracy differs from oligarchy—how far feudalism is really responsible for the “Baronets” (a point on which profound misconception prevails)—and in what way we can cure the corruptions of the constitution without injuring its healthy and essential parts. Such questions are no child’s play, but they will have to be met. It is the fear of internal disorder which hampers our statesmen in dealing with the governments of the Continent.

To resume (before concluding) the great question of the day, we



the English are slow to rouse that they are good to act. The Englishman’s hide is thick, but, like the rhinoceros, his rush is glorious too. Let nobody fancy that he does not care whether Bomba holds out and the Russian backs him up in it, or no. He rather fancies setting himself a little right about some mishaps in “’54, ’55,” and is at bottom not at all afraid of a fresh row, whatever his leaders may be. But then a “question” must develop into an overt act before the English get very hot about it. The image of the tendency is to be seen in our street rows as compared with those of the South. A Southern pulls out his knife instantly, but very likely never uses it; an Englishman argues and abuses for twenty minutes, and if he fights then, fights till he is carried off half killed.

A passage in Lord Panmure’s speech of last week has brought up the capital speculative subject of Centralisation. In one respect,

are decidedly for pushing Bomba home,—which is the open way and the way of honour. If revolution ensues, that is not our fault, but his, and on his head be the consequences. We trust that his people will give a good account of the base knave; and we must then be ready to undertake that he shall not be restored by force of arms, if British arms can prevent it. Italy may now be about to have one more chance. With the whole question of Italy and her prospects, we have not now to do; but if the "chance" is come, and once more she fail, it will be for want of union between the party of Sardinia and the party of the republic. Let them try and unite, at whatever sacrifice, to avert absolutist perdition. The game may have begun as we write these lines. But we are bound to say, that, in the present degraded state of Europe, we despair of causes where courage and generosity are demanded from politicians. Our wishes are chilled by a dim apprehension of some dishonourable compromise. If that be the result of all this agitation, why, then, we shall have clear evidence that England is discredibly under the dictation of Louis Napoleon, and that it is the duty of honest men to cast about for means of kicking out the existing Ministry.

NICHOLAS ALEXANDROWITCH, THE HEIR OF ALL THE RUSSIAS.

AFTER all the annoyance Europe has experienced from Russia during the last three or four years, there are few persons who can be otherwise than curious, in some degree at least, as to the rising generation of the house of Romanoff. During the recent ceremony at Moscow, the little Archdukes figured prominently, and of course attracted much attention. The spectators of the Czar's entry into the ancient capital of his dominions, caught a glimpse of one of them seated in a carriage by the side of the Empress, arrayed in full military uniform, and taking all the applause as a matter of course, though suspected of having his thoughts somewhat distracted by that desire for dinner which urghins of his age so often feel. Again, when the ceremony of coronation is going on within the Church of the Assumption, when the Czar places the crown on the head of his spouse, and invested her with the Imperial mantle, and when the feeble frame of the Empress-Mother tottered with outstretched arms towards her Imperial son, and passionately clasped and held him in a long embrace, we see all the little Grand Dukes clamour up to the side of their father and uncle, who had to stoop low in order to reach the little faces which asked to be kissed.

Among these juvenile princes, all fine hearty little fellows—each of whom, by-the-bye, is colonel of a regiment, and looks quite smart in his tiny uniform—the most interesting, of course, is the subject of the accompanying portrait.

Nicholas Alexandrowitch, eldest son of the Czar Alexander and of Marie Alexandrovna, was born in September, 1843; and it was at the birth of this Prince that the late Czar requested the Grand Duke Constantine to take, on the four Gospels, an oath of fidelity to the heir of the throne.

The little Grand Duke, who has the prospect, one day, of being Czar of all the Russias, of the Kingdom of Poland, and of the Grand Duchy of Finland, and of inheriting a policy of craft and ambition, is thought to resemble his unscrupulous Grandfather in feature and in many points of character. He has the vivacity natural to his time of life, and a good deal of that kindness and consideration which are manifest in both his parents. Like the majority of his brothers and cousins, he is a pupil of the Corps des Cadets, and appears in the uniform of that school on all public occasions.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A MONETARY crisis is at present reigning in France, and people are all talking of the measures which will be adopted by the Government for the relief of commerce and the Bourse. The Council-General of the Bank has resolved not to discount bills of longer date than sixty days, instead of ninety, as heretofore. The suspension of cash payments continues to be spoken of, but nothing certain has as yet transpired; only it is asserted that the Bank of France urgently demands a forced circulation for its notes, but that the Emperor is opposed, so far, to any such measure. A report of the Minister of Finance on the budget of 1856 has in some measure calmed apprehension on this subject. The Minister says that the revenue has increased, for the six months alone, by 63,000,000*fr.* as against 1854, and 26,000,000*fr.* as against 1855. Money, it appears, flows into the public treasury. The export of coin, especially of silver, which seems to have much to do with the present crisis, is inveighed against, and the interference of the Government threatened.

We read in a letter from Paris, Saturday:—"A good many persons, some say one hundred, were arrested the night before last in the Rue Mouffetard, and in other streets of the 12th arrondissement. The parties are charged with being implicated in the posting up by day, and particularly by night, placards of a very menacing character. These placards threaten death to the proprietors, demand 'cheap bread or ———,' recommend the most summary measures against the owners of house property, and several of them used very disrespectful and even menacing expressions towards the Emperor himself.

The French Mediterranean squadron, under the command of Admiral Trehouart, is still waiting for orders at Toulon. The crews had been forbidden for some days to leave their vessels, which circumstance gave birth to the rumour that they only waited for a telegraphic notice to sail for Naples.

The Emperor and Empress arrived at Paris at eight p.m. on the 3rd, and immediately left for St. Cloud. Here a Council of Ministers was held, under the presidency of the Emperor. The affairs of Italy, and particularly of Naples, were again under deliberation.

Prince Lucien Bonaparte, whose excursion in the Basque provinces has been mentioned, has just returned to Paris.

SPAIN.

THE Government of O'Donnell is showing the greatest energy in the Mexican affair.

The Queen has declared the child of the Duchess of Montpensier to be an Infanta of Spain.

The report of the Special Commission which had to propose the organization of the Council of State has been presented to the Government. It is generally believed that this body will be soon formed, and that it will comprise the highest personages of the different political parties, thus confirming the policy altogether conciliatory of the actual cabinet.

The "Epoca" states the Government intends to appoint all the archbishops and six of the most distinguished bishops senators of the kingdom. It was reported that the Marquis del Duero would be nominated President, and M. Martinez de la Rosa, Vice President, of the Council of State. Not only have the journalists who were arrested been liberated, but also those who had been condemned.

The "Dissension" affirms that if the Mexican Government refuses to fulfil the convention with regard to the payment of what is due to Spanish subjects, the Spanish Government is determined to act with the greatest energy, and to demand the execution of the convention. In case of refusal, a naval division will be sent to San Juan de Ulloa in order to maintain the demand. The "Dissension" says that the division will consist of two men-of-war, three frigates, two corvettes, and four steam frigates.

HOLLAND.

CONSIDERABLE and useful improvements have been effected in the military organisation of Holland. The cannon foundries and armouries at Amsterdam, the Hague, and Delft have been increased; and experiments are about to be commenced at the Polygon of the Royal Military School at Breda, in order to apply to the Dutch artillery the recent improvements which have been adopted in France. The militia is also to be re-organised. Its

effective force in peace will be raised to 55,000 men, and in case of war a royal decree can order an extraordinary levy. The length of service is to be five years. A special maritime militia is also to be formed for duty in the arsenals, and the colonial army is to be considerably increased and completely re-organised.

AUSTRIA.

THE state of the Neapolitan question continues to give great uneasiness to the Austrian Government. The Austrians fear, or affect to fear, that the French Government intends to "pit" the Murats against the Bourbons in Naples, and this in spite of the asseverations of M. de Bourqueney to the contrary. The news that Sardinian vessels are to accompany the Anglo-French squadron to Naples, has greatly excited the jealousy of the Austrians, and, if possible, increased their animosity towards the Turin Cabinet.

In addition to the instructions which M. de Martini has taken to Naples, the Cabinet of Vienna has addressed a circular note to its representatives at Paris and London, in which Austria protests against all armed demonstration, and demands energetically that the Neapolitan question, raised already at the Paris Congress, be brought before the new congress which is shortly to assemble. No reply has yet been made to this note, which was received at the same time with that from Russia.

Baron de Hubner arrived at Vienna on the evening of the 3rd, and the following morning had a conference with Count Buol. The resignation of Prince Petrucci (Neapolitan Minister at Vienna) has been accepted.

RUSSIA.

THE "Frankfort Journal" speaks of a second Russian note on the Neapolitan question of a more recent date than the one already published. This second note is stated to have been addressed to the French Government, and to have been written on the reception of intelligence from Paris announcing the forwarding of an ultimatum and a demonstration on the part of the Allied fleets. It contains a positive protest of the Russian Government against any such proceeding. The Paris "La Presse" doubts the existence of this note, in consequence of the mode in which the Neapolitan question has been treated for some time past. The "Frankfort Journal," it says, probably confounds this note with a letter, which, according to rumour, has been addressed by the Emperor of Russia to the Emperor of the French, and which letter, we are told, expresses "the entire confidence of the Emperor Alexander in the prudence and moderation of the Emperor Napoleon."

DENMARK.

M. ANDREA is to be the President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark; and the Cabinet will be thus re-constituted:—M. Fenger, Minister of Finance; M. Scheele, to remain Minister of the German Duchies; and the others, with the exception of M. Bang, at their former posts.

ITALY.

THE position of the Neapolitan question remains unchanged. Austria has sent M. de Martini to Naples, but it is not supposed that he will have greater success in moving the King than Baron Hubner. Meantime, a Committee of Resistance has been formed in Naples, and is enrolling the hazzarouni by means of pay. It is sought to make a demonstration, which shall frighten the enemies of the Government, at the time of the appearance of the fleets of the Western Powers, and scenes similar to those of '48 are threatened. At the head of the committee figure the well-known names of Mazza, Morbilly, Merenda, Campagna, and Albano.

The "Fremdenblatt" states that the King of Naples has caused all his most valuable property to be removed to Gaeta, and that the population of the capital are in a very excited state.

The Italians residing at Constantinople have sent 1,500*fr.* as part of their subscriptions towards the cost of the guns of Alexandria. The municipality of the latter place have sent in 1,000*fr.*

Sardinia claims the right of joining in the naval demonstration intended against Naples.

At Nice, great preparations continue to be made for the reception of the Empress Dowager of Russia. At Monaco—that beautiful little principality, rising, as it were, out of the Mediterranean—numbers of work-people are engaged in the construction of a "maison de jeu," as a rival to Homburg. They speak of a steamer to ply three times a-day between Nice and Monaco, the Sardinian Government having refused to renew the license to ply at Aix-les-Bains.

The preparations making at Milan for the reception of the Emperor of Austria continue with activity. His Majesty is expected to arrive there towards the middle of November.

To get up the requisite amount of loyal demonstration for the Emperor of Austria's visit to his Lombard dominions, a long letter of instructions has been addressed by M. Anelli, Delegate Governor of the province of Como, to his subordinates, the district commissaries, desiring them to exert all their influence to induce the municipalities and communal deputies to make a great show of zeal, and prepare an enthusiastic welcome for Francis Joseph and his consort, who are expected about the end of November or the beginning of December. M. Anelli prescribes the erection of triumphal arches along the Emperor's route, the stationing of bands of music at the entrance to all the towns and villages, the illumination of conspicuous buildings, &c. &c.

SWITZERLAND.

"LE NORD" says that the question of Neuchâtel will shortly divert attention from the subject of Naples. The King of Prussia, irritated by the reply made to the note of M. de Sydow, and by the recent decisions of the Federal Council upon General Dufour's report, has signified to the Helvetic Confederation, that if the prosecution of the royalist prisoners is not abandoned, and if those individuals are not set at liberty, Prussia will enter at once upon the military occupation of Neuchâtel.

A letter from Berlin states that the Austrian Government has asked to be informed of the intentions of Prussia in the affair of Neuchâtel, and that this query is interpreted as a sign that Austria will act in concert with Prussia.

According to the "Nouvelle Gazette de Prusse," the German Diet intend, immediately upon resuming their sittings, to enter upon the consideration of the rights of the King in this matter.

GREECE.

ADVICES from Athens state that the Governments of France and England, having been appealed to respecting the dispute which lately took place between the Queen and Admiral Bouet Villamez on the subject of the command of the Piræus, approve completely the conduct of the Admiral on the occasion. It is said that the Ministers of France and England at Athens have received instructions to inform the Greek Government that the loan of 60,000,000*fr.* had for its guarantee that national property which the Queen was about to divide among her supporters, and which could not be alienated without the assent of the three Powers.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE English fleet was, on the 25th ult., awaiting in the Bosphorus its orders to depart. The political embarrassments of the Porte were increasing. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe's influence prevailed one day, and that of M. de Thouvenel the next, till it was superseded by that of M. von Prokesch.

An order, received at Constantinople from London on the 1st instant, directs that three steamers and six gun-boats shall re-enter the Black Sea. A French squadron is ordered to co-operate with the British fleet, as the Isle of Serpents question is not satisfactorily settled. An Austrian squadron is also ordered to Constantinople.

The truce established between Turkey and Montenegro is to expire on the 12th inst. In spite of the pacific assurances of Prince Daniel, three attacks have been made by the Montenegrins on the Turkish position near Spug. An Austrian colonel has repaired to Cettinge, to keep the Prince quiet by persuasion, if he can.

Austria supports the application of Montenegro for an extension of frontier.

M. de Talleyrand and Sir Henry Bulwer have returned from Broussa. Letters from the Black Sea describe a tremendous storm at Varna, and they also state that several casualties have occurred in the Sea of Azoff, by vessels running upon the sunken ships there.

The Euphrates railway has been definitively conceded to an English company.

M. de Thouvenel and Lord Stratford de Redcliffe have had a long conference with Reschid Pacha on the subject of the Principality of Moldavia.

A ridiculous affair, which has been excessively magnified at Constantinople, occurred at Galata the other day. A Greek merchant, M. Kondouriotti by name, had caused a dozen sacks of copper to be landed from a Greek vessel under the Russian flag, and attempted to smuggle them into the town. The Custom-house Officers having seized them, the Greek sailors, headed by M. Kondouriotti, fell upon the officers, ill-treated them, and threw one of them into the sea. His cries brought the neighbours, mostly Turkish workmen, to the spot, and a scuffle ensued, in which M. Kondouriotti was rather roughly handled. At length a party of soldiers arrived, and arrested both him and the sailors. It has been attempted to attach political importance to this occurrence, it having been asserted that the Russian flag had been torn down and trampled upon. The matter is being inquired into.

AMERICA.

SOME little stir has been caused in New York by the publication of the official report made by the special commissioner, Mr. A. B. Corwine, sent out by the Washington Government to investigate the circumstances of the Panama massacre of April last. Mr. Corwine has sent in a voluminous report on the subject, accompanied by an urgent recommendation that the United States should take forcible possession of the Isthmus from ocean to ocean as the only means of securing a safe transit for American passengers and property, and of obtaining indemnity for the wrongs already sustained at the hands of the Government of New Granada. The more sober of the New York journalists remark that the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty contains an express prohibition of such a scheme, and that the faith of the United States Government is pledged with Great Britain, as well as New Granada, to preserve the Isthmus route inviolate. Our own idea was, that the Central American question was finally settled some week or two since. What our American friends are now going to make of it we are curious to know.

Hostilities have recommenced in Kansas. According to reliable intelligence, an army of Missourians, to the number of some 2,800 men, had reached Franklia with the intention of attacking Lawrence. The citizens of the latter place, relying on the promises of Governor Geary to maintain order without reference to party, were wholly unprepared for so formidable an attack; but, resorting to such means as were within their power, they had sent out advance parties to check the progress of the invaders. Some skirmishing, in which several killed and wounded are reported, had taken place. Governor Geary had appeared at Franklin and ordered the Missourians to disband, and it was hoped that the threatened attack on Lawrence may have been prevented.

Yellow fever prevails at Charles'ton.

Mr. W. S. Coleman, President of the San Francisco Vigilance Committee, being on a visit to New York, was arrested on the 18th ult., by the Sheriff of New York, on a civil suit. The arrest was founded upon the affidavit of James R. Molony, naval storekeeper of San Francisco, who states, amongst other things, that the said William S. Coleman and various other persons formed themselves, at San Francisco, into an unlawful body, called a Vigilance Committee, of which the said Coleman was president, imprisoned and executed, without law, certain persons, and performed other acts, by which the citizens were held in subjection, all of which were acts of rebellion and piracy. Mr. Coleman was held in bail in the sum of 50,000 dollars.

In Nicaragua, a court of law has been organised, called "Court of First Instance." Walker has levied a tax of twenty dollars upon all liquor-dealers in Nicaragua. Colonel Schlessinger has issued a letter to the army, in which he calls President Walker a traitor, and accuses him of not sharing the money which he had stolen from the people of that country with the soldiers, and of not paying them when he was able to do so. Schlessinger offers full guarantee of protection to all of Walker's army who will join him. We have heard nothing further yet of the invasion of Nicaragua by Guatemala. But little could be ascertained of Walker's movements or of the state of the interior of the country. The Hon. Pierre Soulé has purchased a rancho in Nicaragua for 50,000 dollars.

PERU.

THE long-slumbering hatred which exists against President Castilla has at length broken out in open revolution. The revolution broke out during the night of the 14th ult., and was headed by General Castilla, who was joined by a number of the officers and men of the regular army. They united in the Plaza, where an encounter took place between them and the Government party, headed by President Castilla; several persons were killed during the engagement, and the horse of the President was shot under him. After a rather severe engagement, the President finally succeeded in overcoming the revolutionists, the engagement having lasted several hours. This we look upon as the first step towards the overthrow of Castilla's rule, and will no doubt be followed by a succession of outbreaks against his government, which must sooner or later result in his overthrow.

INDIA AND CHINA.

THE rumours of a military demonstration in the Persian Gulf by our forces have revived. The views of the Court of Teheran on the important town of Herat are much distrusted. Whether the Persian forces have actually obtained possession of the place is uncertain; but that they are encamped in force before the town or in its immediate vicinity, with the avowed intention of occupying it, is strongly asserted. Now, the Shah is bound by the treaty with England of 1853 not to lead Herat to his dominions; consequently, if successful in his present undertaking, he directly violates his engagement.

All apprehensions of a second Santal insurrection have passed away. The unfortunate people are suffering from a famine, the natural result of the last year's risings.

There have been some disturbances, though of no great moment, at Peshawar. A couple of troopers of the 5th Light Cavalry, when parading, were attacked by some fellows in ambush, who cut them so severely with the terrible Khyberie knife, that one of them died in consequence. Pursuit was given instantly, but unfortunately in vain.

The ex-King of Oude was still dozing away at Garden Reach. He had, when the mail left, been joined by his late Minister the Nawab Ali Nucky Khan, who, according to the local journals, was expected to infuse some vigour into his Majesty's councils.

The Chinese rebellion seems to be approaching its crisis. News very unfavourable to the Imperialists has recently reached Shanghai. One report says three cities south-west of Soo-chow have fallen. The latest intelligence of the rebels in the neighbourhood of Nanking is that they have been gaining upon the Imperialists. The Commander-in-Chief of the Imperialists, Hwang-yung, has been compelled to withdraw his forces from the neighbourhood of Nanking. The cavalry under his command have disappeared, and his other troops are dispirited. The two parties have lately had two general battles, in both of which the insurgents were victors.

TERRIBLE, IF TRUE.—The "Galveston (U. S.) News" reports the discovery of a plot in Texas on the part of the slaves, aided by the Mexicans of that county, to rise and murder all the white people of the county, except the young ladies! The plot was to be carried into effect on the 6th instant! Every Mexican in the county is said to have been implicated. The Mexicans were ordered forthwith to leave the county within five days, never to return again under penalty of death. The plan of operations was to murder all the whites, except the young ladies, seize these, and make for Mexico with all the plunder they could obtain.

EXTRAORDINARY SUICIDE AT FLORENCE.—A person named Nanni built a large amphitheatre at Florence, and was about to open it with an historical festival of the fifteenth century, when the Florentines and Sanese received the Florentine ambassadors on their return from Naples, where they had concluded the peace of 1415. The bills had been approved of by the police authorities—curiosity was raised to the highest pitch. Suddenly the police, being led to believe that there would be a political demonstration on the occasion, sent an order prohibiting the spectacle. Poor M. Nanni, who had spent his whole capital in the speculation, sought and obtained an audience of the Grand Duke, who told him "that the interest of the State required that the prohibition should not be rescinded." The unhappy man lost his senses, took a carriage, drove to the suspension-bridge, and there threw himself into the Arno, leaving his family in utter destitution.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON AND QUEEN ISABELLA.

The Madrid Correspondent of the "Independence Belge" writes from that capital as follows:—

The Emperor Napoleon has addressed an autograph letter of eight pages, and of very serious advice, to Queen Isabella. After praising many acts of the late Cabinet, the Emperor invites the Queen to abandon the idea of any further ministerial modification; to maintain the constitutional régime, which alone, in his opinion, is suitable for the Peninsula; to raise the state of siege as completely as possible; and to assemble, without much further delay, the Senate in the Chamber of Deputies. The Emperor insists upon the necessity of granting the fullest liberty of discussion to the two Chambers, and of avoiding, by all means, a return to the arbitrary and despotic régime which distinguished the reign of Ferdinand VII. The Emperor then enters upon secondary questions, and gives minute details upon the fatal influence which certain members of the Senate might have, and which it would be dangerous not to destroy. The letter generally is full of sympathy for the Queen and for the Ministers, especially for Marshal O'Donnell and M. Rios Rosas. It produced a profound impression upon the mind of her Majesty, who, immediately after reading it, summoned Marshal O'Donnell, with whom she remained in consultation for about three hours. The letter was then read at a Council of Ministers.

In a letter of two days' later date, the same correspondent writes:—"Her Majesty has written to the Emperor of the French, expressing her profound gratitude. She states that she is infinitely obliged to him for his advice; that she will take his counsels into her best consideration; and that she particularly appreciates the clear, precise, and truly paternal manner in which his suggestions are conveyed."

In this connection, we may mention that a very remarkable article appeared in the "Nation" (Madrid paper) of the 28th ult., respecting a pamphlet which was sold and distributed in that city and in the provinces, on the advantages to be derived from the "fauces" of the Princess of Asturias and the Imperial Prince of France. The journal "L'Iberia," another liberal paper, has also an excellent article on the Imperial Prince being named Senor de Biscay, while the Sovereign herself, though Queen of Spain, is only Senora; and it dwells very strongly on a report, much spread and considerably believed, that there is a movement among some of the leading men in the Basque Provinces to place their fueros under the protection of France. These two subjects have created much sensation at Madrid.

THE MERRIMAC.

The United States screw-frigate Merrimac has attracted considerable attention since her arrival in Southampton Water; and from her peculiar character, both as to build and armament, and from the fact that she is likely to prove the frigate of the future, she is certainly worth a word of description.

The following are her dimensions:—

Extreme length	300 feet
Breadth of beam	52 "
Depth from spar deck	35 "
Guns, 8, 9, and 10-inch calibre.	
Tonnage, 3,900 52-95 measurement.	
Draught of water	23½ "
Horse-power, 400.	

The crew consists, according to American naval regulations, of 564 officers and men. The armament of the Merrimac is at present of forty guns, but she is expected for sixty. The diminution in the number is probably caused, and compensated for, by the heavier calibre she now carries. She possesses two 10-inch twenty-four 9-inch, and fourteen 8-inch guns. The first-named two 130-pounders, the second 84-pounders, and the latter 64-pounders. The Merrimac is intended to fire shell and not shot—an innovation the results of which have yet to be tested. The guns are the invention of a Mr. Dahlgren, and one peculiarity in them is the great disproportion between the dimensions of the breach and the mouth. The metal 10-inch guns are at the breach ten inches thick, whilst at the mouth they are only two inches and a half; but it is stated that when these guns are put to an extreme test, they burst at the breach, which is presumed is a proof that the disproportion of thickness is not too great. The Merrimac is constructed of great strength, having iron transverse braces, four inches and a half wide and five-eighths of an inch thick. She is one of six sister frigates—the others being the Wabash, Minnesota, Colorado, Roanoke, and Niagara. The area of her sails is 566 square feet; the mainmast is 51 square feet, the foremast 40, the jib 24. The mainmast is 123 feet in height, the foremast 111, and the mizen 104½. The local variations of compasses is counteracted on board the Merrimac by three magnets. Each of these magnets is about two feet long, a little more than one inch in width, and about three-quarters of an inch in thickness. One of the magnets is placed immediately under the compass on the upper deck, its direction being fore and aft. Another is placed under that one in the same direction, and is fastened to the ceiling of the main deck. The third is fastened to the same ceiling, about four feet distant on the larboard side, and its direction is athwart the ship, so that it is at right angles with the other two magnets. The invention of this contrivance for counteracting local variations is due to Captain Morris, the commander of an American coasting steamer, and is much in use in United States merchant ships; but the Merrimac is the first man-of-war in which it has been tried.

Hoisting apparatus is attached to the screw of the frigate. The screw is twenty-six feet two inches in pitch, and seventeen feet four inches in diameter. The frigate has a two-rod steeple engine, with a 72-inch cylinder and a 3-foot stroke. The pressure of steam is twenty pounds to the square inch. The revolutions are fifty per minute. The engine department is furnished with independent auxiliary engines for coaling the ship, and with four of Martin's patent vertical fire boilers, and a steam-engine register and chronometer clock. The two latter are rare and costly instruments for an engine-room. The consumption of fuel is thirty-five tons a day, full steam. The full speed attained by this ship is not very great—about ten knots on the average.

We would now to complete our conception of the armament of the Merrimac, make a comparison between the weight of metal from her broadside and that of one or two of our own ships. The Shannon, 61, one of our own crack frigates, is 2,400 tons burthen, and has the following armament:—Thirty 8-inch guns, twenty long 32-pounders, one pivot 68-pounder. Taking the 8-inch guns as throwing hollow shot of fifty-six pounds, and solid of sixty-five, the broadside thrown by the Shannon would be of the weight of 1,114 pounds hollow shot, and 1,229 pounds solid. The weight of broadside which the Merrimac, of 3,900 tons burthen, would throw, would be in solid shot a weight of 1,716 pounds, and in shells 1,382 pounds. This, as we understand it, is as to her present armament; but then the length of her guns would give her a great advantage in range. She could throw 130-pound and other heavy shot from her enormous guns with good aim upwards of two miles, and would do terrible execution at that distance.

The Americans have done away with the old-fashioned cutlass for sailors, and the substitute for it is a straight, short Roman sword, adapted to cut and thrust, and is an exceedingly handy and formidable weapon in boarding, where fighting men are crowded together. Both the Minié rifle and Brown Bess are on board the Merrimac, and the men are armed also with pistols and the officers with revolvers.

MONTENEGRO.—Prince Daniel has addressed a protest or declaration to the Western Powers, in which he makes three demands. He requires, first, that the State of Montenegro shall be recognised as purely sovereign and independent. He demands, secondly, an extension of the Montenegro territory on the side of Albania and the Herzegovine; and he finally insists that one of the maritime ports on the Adriatic coast shall be restored to the State of Montenegro. Nearly the whole of these demands are made against Turkey, while nearly the whole preamble of the complaint is directed against Austria. These demands are not at all likely to be granted.

PROTESTANTISM IN AUSTRIA.—A circular from the consistories of the reformed confession of Augsburg, relative to burials, speaks of the intention manifested by the Austrian Government to grant to its Protestant subjects entire freedom of worship. This idea is founded on a passage contained in a rescript of the Minister of Public Worship, in which it is said that the new prescriptions are in no way intended to impede the free exercise of the Protestant worship; and that the populations, in accord with their ecclesiastical authorities, ought to support the efforts of the Government to bring about a state of things which would permit the Evangelical Church to freely develop its worship and its religious observances.

THE EXILES AT CAYENNE.—The "Moniteur," roused by the revelations as to the manner in which they manage matters in Cayenne, at length denied that the prisoners were subjected to any ill-treatment whatsoever. Cayenne was even, it would seem, selected as a place of exile because of the salubrity of its climate! The "Moniteur" says—"In the establishment of Cayenne, it was justly considered that the convicts of the bagues, encumbered in France within confined and unhealthy spots, might be much better treated in a colony." To this, and some other arguments equally dishonest and absurd, Louis Blanc has replied in the daily journals, alleging that the Imperial Government has altogether failed to remove the stigma it endeavours to whitewash.

SPANISH DIFFICULTIES.—A large Spanish force is likely to be despatched to Melilla to chastise the Moors. Another exciting affair of a similar kind has taken place. On the 24th of August, a barque, manned by forty-two Rifians, appeared off Albuñuelas, a port occupied by the Spaniards, and appeared to defy the latter to combat. Several boats, manned by volunteers from the garrison, put off to attack the barque, and after a combat of two hours they captured it by boarding. All the Rifians were killed, and the Spaniards took their dead bodies to land. The loss of the Spaniards was two killed and ten wounded.

THE PRESS IN VIRGINIA.—The grand jury of Shinnston, Virginia, recently found a true bill against the postmaster of that village for circulating and delivering to subscribers copies of the "New York Tribune," an affidavit having been previously made by a Mr. George Slocum, that the journal in question was an abolition document.

IRELAND.

A DREADFUL CATASTROPHE.—The wife of a farmer, named Magrath, living near Ballinrobe, Galway, had been preparing to make butter, and had some boiling water in readiness for the purpose of rinsing and scalding the churn. Two children whom she left playing together. While playing round the churn, as it is supposed, owing to some unfortunate accident, the elder child forced the younger into the churn. The poor mother shortly afterwards returned, and, unconscious of what had occurred, poured the boiling water into the churn, thereby scalding the wretched infant, whose stifling screams only announced its horrible death. In desperate frenzy, on beholding the effects of her act, the frantic mother seized on some implement of destruction—a footstool according to one account—and hurling it at the other child, who had been the innocent cause of the shocking casualty, caused its death also, and then rushing to a stream close at hand, she flung herself into the water and was drowned.

THE CRIMAN BANQUET.—The sub-committee appointed to select a suitable place for the forthcoming banquet, have, after a diligent examination of several localities, reported in favour of the great tobacco bonding store in the Custom House, rented by Mr. Scovell, who has promised his cordial assistance to the committee. The area is spacious enough for every purpose, the dimensions being 210 by 158 feet; the place is very lofty, well lighted from the roof, and capable of considerable ornamentation at a trifling cost. Wednesday, the 23rd, is the day on which the banquet will come off. The Duke of Malakoff will be present.

SUICIDE OF BARON DE ROBECK.—Baron de Robeck, son-in-law of the late Lord Cloncurry, disappeared on Tuesday week from his house at Leixlip, on the Liffey. He had shown symptoms of insanity, and was closely watched. His son left him for a moment, and he disappeared. The Liffey runs through the grounds, and the Baron's pocket-handkerchief having been found in the stream it was at once dragged. For several days some forty men were engaged in the melancholy search; but at length the body was discovered in the river.

MURDER AT A LUNATIC ASYLUM.—Ryan, a watchman at the Clonmel Lunatic Asylum, has been murdered by four ruffians, who had climbed over the wall of the asylum with a view to plunder. Ryan stoutly resisted, but the ruffians ferociously beat him, fracturing his skull. Six men have been arrested on suspicion.

JAMES SADLER AND THE TIPPERARY BANK.—The furniture of the worthy M.P. for Tipperary, Mr. James Sadler, was sold on Thursday week, in the presence of the sub-sheriff of the county, and it realised a large sum for the benefit of the creditors of the Tipperary Bank. During the sale the auction mart was crowded by a number of respectable persons, and the proceedings seemed to create much interest. The winding up of the bank affair, and the prospects of the creditors, seem likely to be injured by the too litigious proceedings of some of the parties concerned.

BALLINASLOK FAIR.—The great annual fair of Ballinasloe commenced on Saturday, and the accounts received from it are of a highly satisfactory character for the sellers. The supply of sheep was the largest that has been seen for several years, and prices nevertheless showed some increase on those of last year.

SCOTLAND.

THE HIGHLANDS have been visited by storms of wind and rain; and the Queen, like her subjects, has been put to some inconvenience. In spite of the rough weather at the close of last week, the Queen drove to the falls of Garr Valt, to Birkhall, and Panick Wells; but on Sunday the fury of the storm prevented her from attending church at Crathie. She was present on the banks of the Dee when the river was at its height. Fears were entertained lest the workmen engaged on a new bridge near Balmoral should be swept away, and the Queen directed that they should leave the works. On the whole, however, her Majesty's out-of-door pleasures have been little interfered with. On Tuesday week, the Queen gave her annual ball to the servants, keepers, and gillies on the estates of Balmoral, Aberfeldie, and Birkhall. Her entrance about ten was the signal for dancing. Sir George Grey and Miss Nightingale were present. Her Majesty will leave Balmoral on the 15th instant, and arrive at Windsor Castle on the 17th.

DINNER TO LORD PANMURE.—The tenantry on the Panmure estates entertained Lord Panmure last week to a dinner at Edzell, as an expression of their esteem for him as their landlord. The preparations, which had been in progress for some time, were on a very liberal scale, and the dinner was in every respect worthy of the occasion. A pavilion was erected within the grounds around the old castle, and elegantly decked with flowers and evergreens. The attendance numbered about 200.

THE PROVINCES.

SHOCKING COLLIERY ACCIDENT.—A dreadful calamity occurred at Brynmally Colliery, near Wrexham, on the morning of Wednesday week. While upwards of two hundred miners were at work, the pit was flooded by water bursting in from an old working. The colliers hastened to the higher levels, and most of them escaped; but when they were mustered, fifteen were missing. If these poor men were not drowned, they must have hurried to levels where there was no ventilation, and they must have perished. It is supposed that a month will elapse before the pit can be cleared of the water.

INCENDIARY FIRES.—No less than five incendiary fires occurred in the neighbourhood of Bicester last week, and, as may be supposed, caused unexampled anxiety and distress. One of the fires occurred at Waterloo Farm, Cottessmore, in which the whole produce of ninety acres of land has been destroyed, as well as geese, fowls, some harness, &c. The aggregate loss of the five recent fires is supposed to be about £4,000.

THE CHEAP CONCERTS AT LIVERPOOL.—The first of the cheap concerts at St. George's Hall, Liverpool, on Saturday evening, was marked with triumphant success. The magnificent hall was crowded, and the vast audience applauded every effort of the performers. Nearly every song was encored, and the local artists who were engaged, had occasioned to feel justly proud of the result. Mr. T. W. Best varied the programme by playing several pieces on the great organ. The Mayor and a number of the members of the council were present, and stayed to the end of the entertainment, which concluded with the "National Anthem." The prices of admission were 3d., 6d., and 1s.

AGRICULTURAL MEETINGS.—The Bedfordshire Agricultural Society held their annual show and dinner on Friday week. The show was good, and the attendance numerous. Lord Charles Russell presided at the dinner. On the same day, the Worcester Society dinner was held. The show was unusually excellent. Lord Elmley and Sir John Pakington were present, and addressed the company. It is satisfactory to observe that at all these meetings there is one prevailing tone of content, and decided evidences of agricultural enterprise and prosperity.

THE BISHOP OF EXETER AND THE TIVERTON BURIAL BOARD.—The new cemetery at Tiverton, which has recently been opened for interments, has a wall dividing the church from the dissenters' ground, of about a foot in height. The Bishop of Exeter, on being applied to by the Mayor of Tiverton to consent to do so, provided that the "middle wall of partition" was four feet instead of one foot high. Upon this the burial board applied to the Mayor of Tiverton to convene a public meeting of the inhabitants to advise the board on the subject. A meeting was accordingly held in the town-hall, last Saturday, the Mayor presiding. It was moved, by way of satisfying the Bishop, that a wooden fence be constructed, but only six persons out of a crowded meeting voted for it; and a resolution was carried by a large majority advising the burial board to await the provisions of the bill on the subject which is to be brought before Parliament in the ensuing session, and in the meantime to agree to no further division of the ground.

LUCKY ESCAPE.—A miraculous escape from drowning occurred in the Tyne during the storm of Saturday week. A ship captain had his vessel lying in the lower part of Shields harbour, and being unable to sleep from the wind rattling at his chamber window, he went down to the water-side to try to get on board his ship. There was no waterman at the landing to put him on board, and he was twisting at a chain to get a boat loose, when he saw something white passing rapidly down the stream. He fortunately hooked it, and found it to be the body of a man. He hauled him on shore, and having knocked up the people of a tavern, he procured restoratives, and the poor fellow recovered. The man turned out to be a sea captain, who had slipped overboard. He had thrown off his coat, and had made a struggle for life, but was sinking exhausted when he was hooked and landed by his confidant.

THE OMNIBUS "CORRESPONDENCE" SYSTEM IN MANCHESTER.—The "correspondence" system has now been in operation, as regards the omnibuses on the principal routes in this city, for more than six months; and we are informed that the average number of tickets issued weekly during that period has been more than 10,000.

NEW LIBRARY AND MUSEUM AT LIVERPOOL.—The prize of 150 guineas offered by the town council of Liverpool for the best design for a new library and museum has been awarded to Mr. Allom, of Thornhill Chambers, St. Martin's Lane, and the second prize of 100 guineas to Mr. Holmes, of Bury—both subject to the opinion of the surveyor as to whether these designs can be executed for £20,000.

BISHOP MALBY'S RETIREMENT.—The Dean and Chapter of Durham have addressed Bishop Malby upon his retirement from the diocese. They express their sorrow at being "severed from a bishop with whom our intercourse for more than twenty years has been marked by a continuance of concord and friendship, uninterrupted by any (even the slightest) disagreement." The Bishop in reply attributes his resignation to "a failure of sight and a decay of strength," and says—"It affords me great consolation to perceive that the sentiments with which you have been actuated towards me, as your diocesan and friend, have not suffered the slightest diminution during the period in which I have been incapacitated from discharging as I could have wished all the duties of my sacred office."

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT PRESTON.—On Saturday evening, about seven o'clock, a passenger train from Manchester ran into a goods train that was being shunted to a small branch near the viaduct of the London and North-Western Railway over the river Ribbles, and only a short distance from the Preston station. The former was not proceeding at a very rapid rate, and the consequences of the collision were not so serious as they must otherwise have been; nevertheless, some of the carriages were considerably shattered and a number of the passengers were more or less injured. One man had his eye severely cut, another had his left hand hurt and one of his fingers broken, while others were a good deal bruised and shaken. The engine of the passenger train sustained little damage, and the driver and stoker were fortunately unhurt. The origin of the accident must have been carelessness, either on the part of the signal-man or of the driver employed in shunting from the main to the branch line.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON ELECT.—Dr. Traill, Dean of Carlisle, recently appointed to the Bishopric of London, took his farewell of the people of Carlisle on Sunday afternoon last, when he preached in the Cathedral. Although the weather was unfavourable the spacious edifice was crowded, several hundred persons, who were unable to obtain seats, being obliged to stand in the choir and side aisles. The Mayor and Corporation attended in their official capacity, as a mark of respect to the Dean.

DESTRUCTIVE FLOODS.—The heavy rains which have recently fallen caused heavy floods in the Tees. Great quantities of wheat, &c., came down the river at Stockton, and amongst other things an entire stack of corn, on the top of which a man was observed sitting. A boat put off to his assistance, and after a little difficulty he was rescued from his perilous position, near the Chain Bridge, South Stockton. It is thought he had been attempting to secure the stack, which was standing near the river in the neighbourhood of Yarm, when the water had come with such force as to wash the whole away, carrying the man with it. In Sheffield and the neighbourhood, also, the rivers and canals were considerably swollen, and some damage done in consequence. In Northumberland a very considerable amount of injury appears to have been occasioned by the floods in Glendale, and in the neighbourhood of the Cheviot Hills. The Glen overflowed its banks, and swept away mill-dams and water-dykes on every side, and inundated the haughs to the breadth of three-quarters of a mile. The Coquet also came down with great violence, and among other things that it carried away upon its waters were a mare and foal, which it swept down to Wheldon Bridge, a distance of three miles, where they were landed. There was also a very large quantity of corn yet uncut in North Coquetdale, Glendale, and elsewhere, which the rain and the floods greatly injured. At Rotham, an old man, who was fishing in the Weir for any prizes that might come down with the flood, fell in, and was carried away. The river Don also rose to an unusual height, and flooded the neighbourhood.

THE REFORMATORY MOVEMENT.—On Saturday a number of the subscribers to Berkshire Reformatory Institution met to inspect the establishment at Slough, near Reading, and to hear a report of its state and prospects. Mr. Benyon, who presided, said the school was opened for the reception of juvenile offenders in June, 1855, and was certified by the Secretary of State for the reception of thirty boys in September following. The establishment at present consisted of a head master and matron, and a school and trades instructor, the assistance of a journeyman shoemaker being occasionally allowed. The number of boys in the school was twenty-one, of whom three had been committed from Wilts and Dorset, and two had been received from Oxfordshire under a temporary arrangement with the magistrates, who were to pay £10 a year for each boy. Two unconvicted boys had also been admitted as apprentices. The conduct of the boys, both morally and industrially, had been exceedingly good. Their diligence in field labour was shown by the crops which had been harvested; and some knowledge of tailoring and shoemaking, which formed part of the industrial occupation, and helped to economise the expenditure of the establishment, had been acquired. During the busy time of haying and harvest, some of the boys had been employed by the neighbouring gentlemen and farmers, and their conduct had been entirely satisfactory. Only two instances of attempts to abscond had occurred. Provision was now made for thirty-five boys, and the additional buildings required for that number had recently been completed. The premises comprised a school and dwelling-house, a barn, pigsties, and cowshed. The cost of the maintenance of the boys was entirely covered by the sum allowed by government, but it was necessary to defray the establishment charges, the repairs and contingencies, by an annual subscription. The managers looked for assistance to the employers of labour in disposing of boys whose term of probation had expired. The average cost of maintenance of the boys was 4s. 9d. a week each; but including the establishment charges, it was 6s. 9d., or would amount, with the charges for rent, repairs, and such items, to about 7s. a week, the present rate of the government allowance. Resolutions approving of the management were unanimously passed.

ILLEGAL INTERMENT IN A CONVENT.—One of the sisters of a convent situated in the town of Derby recently died, and was buried in a piece of ground at the back of the premises. The interment being in direct violation of the order of Council, dated October 18, 1854, it was reported to the clerk of the Burial Board, and a special meeting was called on Monday, to consider what proceedings should be taken in consequence. The inquiry caused much interest, which was heightened by its being known that two nuns had previously been buried without their deaths being registered. At the close of a long discussion, it was decided by a majority of ten—"That the clerk be directed to communicate to the Secretary of State the fact that an interment has taken place in the Roman Catholic Convent Burial-ground, Nottingham Road, contrary to the Order in Council, dated October 18, 1854, and that the Secretary of State be requested to institute an inquiry into the circumstances of the case." An amendment, framed in stronger terms, was rejected.

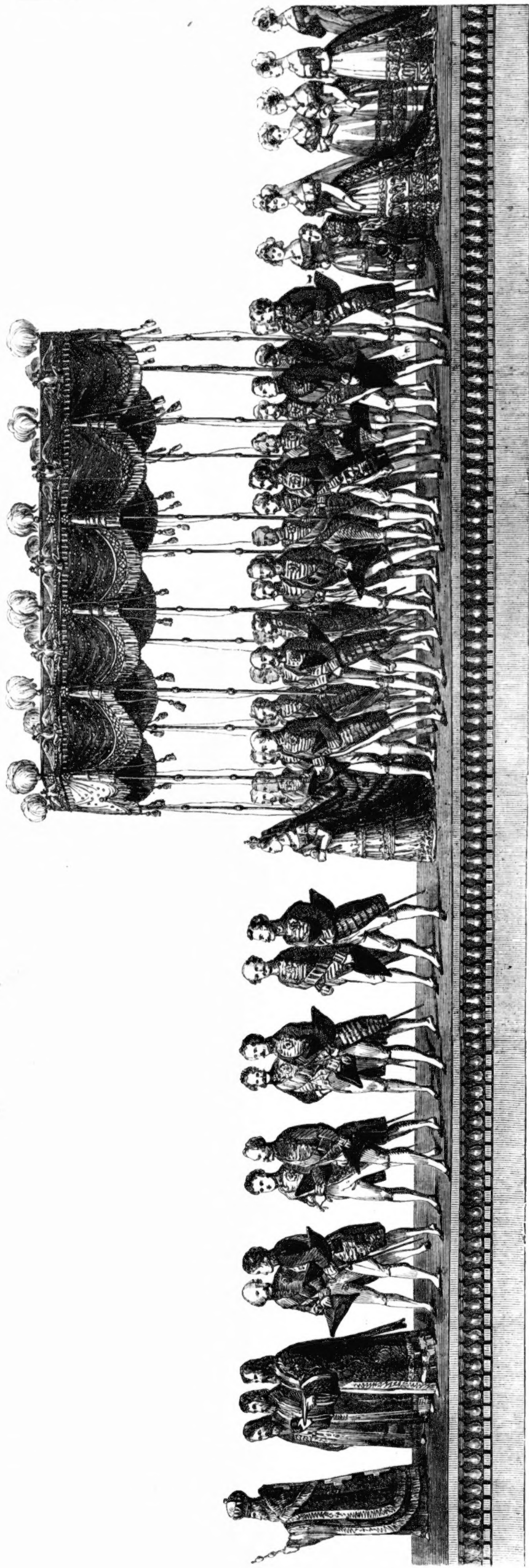
THE EARL OF CARDIGAN AND MR. BUCK.

LAST week we told how Lord Cardigan had, in a letter which he sent to the newspapers, read a severe lecture to Mr. Buck, M.P., for certain animadversions made at a public meeting upon his Lordship's conduct in the Crimea. The Hon. Member now replies in very severe terms. Mr. Buck reminds the Earl "how the horses starved under your command with stores at Balaklava, distant about seven miles; how your Lordship, leaving your companions, your privations, and your command, sought the comfortable shelter of your yacht—an act of generalship unrecorded in the history of other cavalry commanders; and with regard to his Lordship's own account of the cavalry charge at Balaklava, suggests that "Your Lordship may perhaps on a future occasion complete your narrative by giving details of the skill, judgment and coolness with which you rallied and drew off your men from that terrible encounter." The sums of money paid by Earl Cardigan for advancement in the army, having been alluded to in the offending speech, and angrily complained of by the Noble Lord, Mr. Buck observes,—"Your Lordship's promotion, without any distinguished, or, I believe, foreign service, was by far the most rapid of any officer. In May, 1824, your Lordship was a cornet; in December, 1830, you obtained your lieutenant-colonelcy. Your Lordship was subsequently removed from the command of your regiment for organising a system of espionage in your orderly room, by which you gathered matter for a court-martial upon Captain Wathen, a distinguished officer. Captain Wathen was acquitted of the charges preferred by your Lordship, and you were removed from the command of your regiment. Notwithstanding this, your promotion went on, and in 1846 you obtained your colonel's commission. I confess, upon looking over this return, I endeavoured to ascertain from those acquainted with the Horse Guards' machinery how your Lordship had attained such rapid promotion. I failed in understanding the process, but was informed your Lordship's advancement had cost you £4,000. If your Lordship, to secure your advancement, were compelled to expend so large a sum, the inference can only be that an officer without such resources would fail in his advancement in the British army, and that money—not merit—decides the destiny of her officers." Mr. Buck, who is a Conservative, concludes (in allusion to a sneer from his opponent)—"I shall be happy to join ultra-radicals or any other class of politicians, during the next session of Parliament, in securing for the army a more just and efficient system of promotion."

ORNAMENTS OF THEIR PROFESSION.—Colonel Lowe, commanding the 4th Light Dragoons, at Brighton, has been obliged to report to the Horse Guards three officers of his regiment—Lieut. W. Winstanley, Cornet Lord Ernest Vane Tempest, and Cornet W. Jacob Birt, upon charges of serious misconduct towards a brother officer, and has placed those officers under close arrest, pending the result of an inquiry into the circumstances. The "Brighton Herald" after alluding to the affair, says—"A correspondent sends us the following 'particulars of the freaks indulged by the officers of our army,' which have come to his knowledge. The first case was that of a young officer, who, in consequence of not joining in the extravagances of his companions in arms, was forcibly placed in a chair, a napkin tied tightly round his chin, and in that position fed with pap. On resisting, he was slapped, and treated in every respect like an infant. Another victim, who refused to join in the mess, went to bed at a reasonable hour, and, feeling satisfied that his rest would be disturbed, took the precaution to barricade his bed-room door. But that did not avail, for about midnight his persecutors went up stairs, broke in the panes of the door, and forced themselves into the room. They then, as we are informed, forcibly placed him under, or in, a fountain, with nothing on but his shirt, thus giving him a cold bath."

APPREHENSION OF ROBSON.—Robson, the Crystal Palace delinquent, has been arrested at Copenhagen. He there gave himself out as Edward Smith, a gentleman travelling for pleasure; but unfortunately he had no passport, which fixed suspicion on him, and led to his detention. He is by this time in the hands of the English police.

THE BRITISH BANK IN THE BANKRUPTCY COURT.—On Thursday, the British Bank was adjudicated to be bankrupt, under the act for such cases made and provided. Seven days, however, are allowed the lawyers who represent the company to dispute the adjudication, which they have already protested against.



PROCESSION OF THE DOWAGER EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.

The presence of the Dowager Empress of Russia at the coronation of her Imperial son, was a circumstance suggestive of so many and various reminiscences, as could not fail to render that delicate, yet majestic lady, who so long shared the throne of Nicholas, an object of immense interest to the numerous spectators who had crowded to Moscow. Weak and suffering as she was, Alexandra Feodorovna played her part with singular grace and dignity, and responded to the acclamations of the people, in a manner surprising to those who knew how feeble was the frame which her spirit animated.

On the day when the great scene was about to be enacted, there was observed to descend the great staircase of the palace, a white plumed canopy, borne by nobles, under which, wearing a diadem of brilliants, and clad in the long ermine robe, or rather mantle, of an Empress, walked

slowly the Dowager Empress, followed by her little grandson—the heir to the throne, whose portrait we give on another page—and a splendid cortege of princes and nobles. The trumpets played a deafening fanfare, and the spectators cheered vociferously. Behind her seemed to float a cloud of silver and lace, which changed into crimson as it passed. These were the ladies of the Court, in the beautiful Russian full dress. From a crimson toque—a gay crimson ornament, richly jewelled, and giving height and airiness to the whole figure—fell in magnificent folds, a long white lace veil on either side, well back from the face, and flowing to the knee; while, loosely and jauntily on the shoulder, hung a short crimson mantle of velvet. The effect of this group, as it slowly moved by, sparkling in the rays of a powerful sun, was inexpressibly graceful. The Empress-Dowager, accompanied by the Grand Dukes and by the Grand Duchesses, and followed by the foreign Princes, Maids of Honour, and ladies of her Court, slowly passed on to the door of the Cathedral of the Assumption, where

she was received by the clergy with the cross and holy water, and then entered the building with her suite.

When the ceremony of Coronation was over, and the bells began to ring loudly far and near, and guns proclaimed that the Emperor, having received the sacrament, and been anointed with the holy chrism, was about to leave the church of the Assumption in the way we described last week, the Dowager Empress and her suite, with several members of the Imperial family, issued from the south gate of the cathedral, and proceeded to enter the palace by the *peron rouge*. They were greeted along their march by cheers and loud cries; but as has been remarked, the Russian ladies have not yet learnt how to impart animation to such scenes by waving their handkerchiefs, and, as they did not cheer, their share in the proceedings was confined to trying to look pretty. It is the return of the procession to the banqueting-hall in the ancient Palace of the Czars, when the Dowager Empress wore on her brow a crown similar in form to that

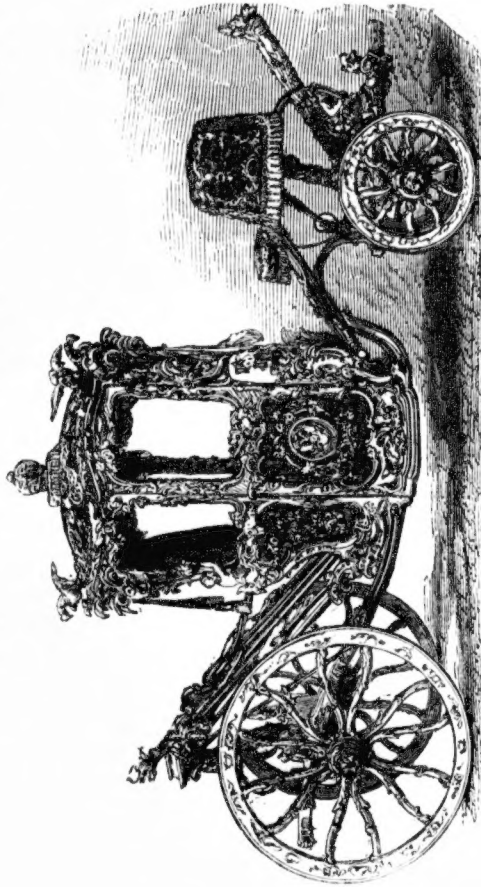
THE CORONATION OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA—THE PROCESSION OF THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER.

THE IMPERIAL CARRIAGES OF RUSSIA.

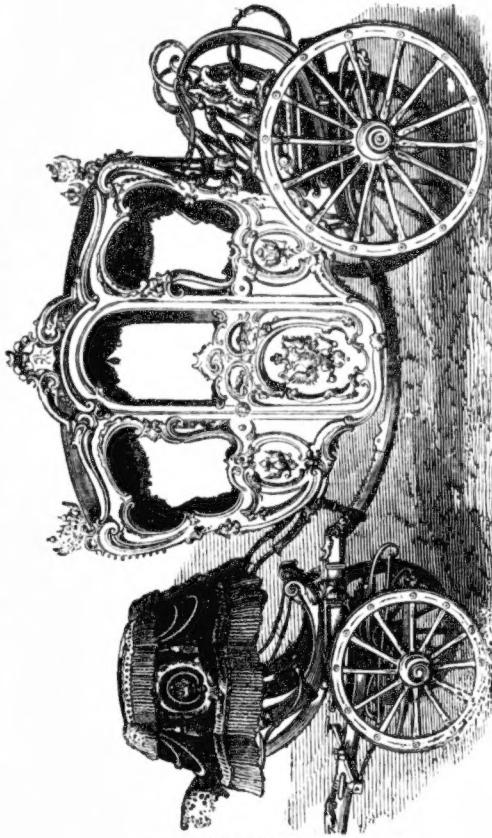
AMONG the various objects of interest which, at the coronation of the Czar, attracted the attention and excited the wonder of visitors to Moscow, not the least interesting were the Imperial carriages. Three of these are represented by the accompanying engravings.

CARRIAGE OF THE DOWAGER EMPRESS.

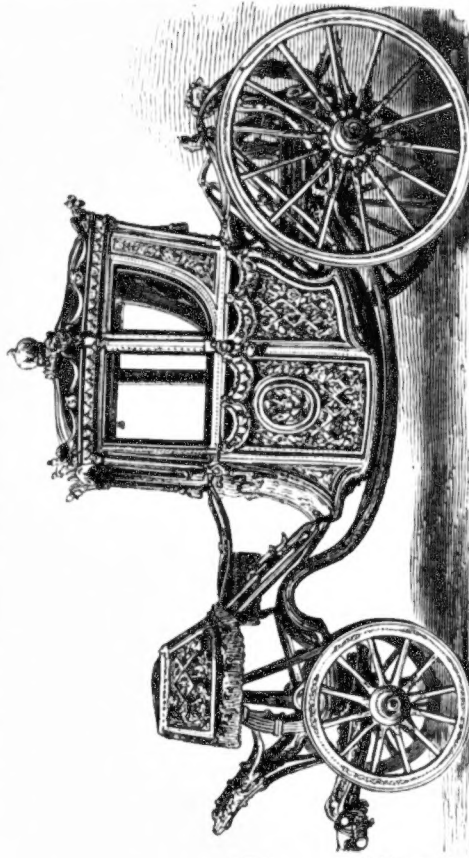
The carriage of the Dowager Empress is of sedan-chair form, and suspended by enormous bands of leather. The decoration is of the style so much in vogue during the reign of Louis XV. The top is surmounted by a crown, and at each corner are eagles with outstretched wings of such a



THE STATE CARRIAGE OF THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER OF RUSSIA.



THE RUSSIAN IMPERIAL STATE CARRIAGE.



THE STATE CARRIAGE OF THE EMPRESS MARIE ALEXANDROVNA.

peculiar form that it requires some little attention to find the least resemblance to the bird whose figure is the blazon of the Sovereign of the North. Every part of the carriage is most elaborately ornamented with particularly delicate carving. Even the wheels have been fashioned with elegance, the spokes being curved and beautifully carved. There is no stand behind for the footmen, but between the front of the carriage and the back of the coachman's seat, is a seat for pages.

THE IMPERIAL STATE CARRIAGE.

The state carriage which follows is indeed a vehicle of some pretensions, and large enough to hold the whole family of princes. It is constructed in the same style as that of the Empress-Mother, but is less florid in its outlines, and with fewer decorations in the way of carving.

All these old carriages are evidently the work of French hands. The beautiful paintings which decorate the panels were either executed by Boucher himself or by his pupils. They (the paintings) have resisted the ravages of time remarkably, owing to the varnish used by Martin, the famous coach-painter, who embellished the reign of Louis XV., the snuff-boxes and fans of whose time are so much esteemed by collectors of the present day.

CARRIAGE OF THE REIGNING EMPRESS.

The carriage of the reigning Empress, although as richly decorated as that of the Dowager Empress, is very much more simple in appearance, the result of a more settled taste, adopted during the reign of Louis XVI. The top is tastefully surmounted by a crown, and six double-headed eagles. The sides of the carriage are also richly carved with flowers and fruit, and ornamented with a profusion of delicate gold work. A seat behind the coachman is provided for the pages, and there is also accommodation for footmen behind.

THE KREMLIN.

The Kremlin is intimately associated with the history of the Russian Empire, the residence of its ancient Czars, and the heart of its ancient capital. Within the gates of the Kremlin, which are connected by a strong and lofty tower, surrounding it in the form of a vast triangle, with many towers, are contained all the most interesting historical buildings in Moscow.

The Kremlin, which had previously existed in a temporary form, was built in 1485 by Ivan the Terrible, two Italian architects, Marco and Pietro Antonio, having been invited to Moscow by the Czar for that purpose. The building stands on an eminence scarcely perceptible till the visitor is within the walls; and when he emerges from the Sacred Gate, and reaches the terrace, a most beautiful view is presented to the eye.



THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR AT MOSCOW.

The ancient residence of the Czar is now replaced by a magnificent structure, completed in 1850 by the Czar Nicholas, and comprising several palaces ornamented with the finest statuary and sculpture.

THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR.

Among the numerous churches in which Moscow abounds, one of the most remarkable is the Church of St. Saviour. The edifice is in that half-oriental style of architecture which characterises the Greek churches in Russia, and the accompanying engraving represents a view of this impressive and remarkable edifice.

THE CZAR'S RECEPTION OF A MILITARY DEPUTATION.

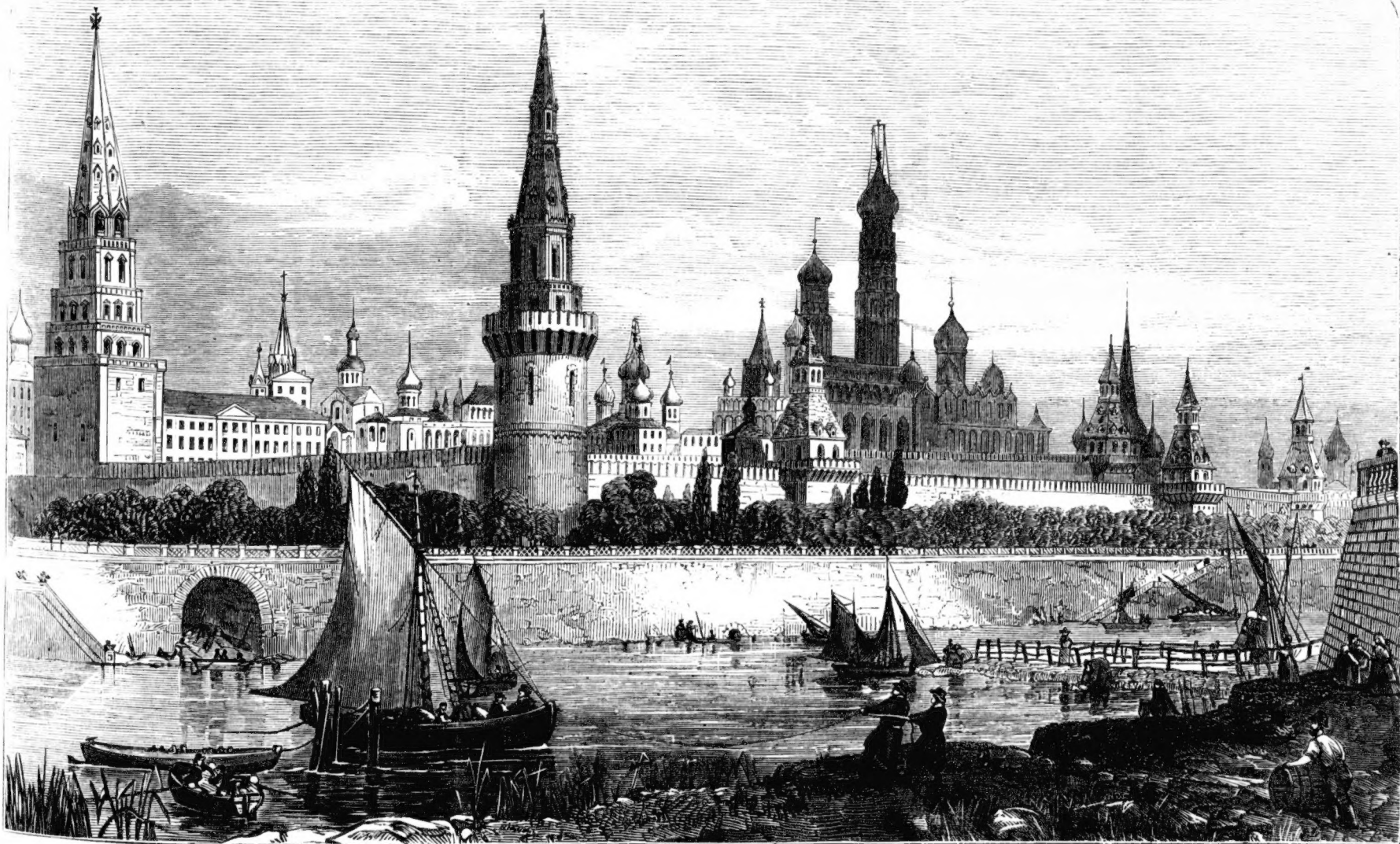
The reception by the Czar Alexander, the representative of the imperial Romanoffs—who were nothing to boast of—a body representing the Russian army, which was thoroughly beaten by the soldiers of ancient Europe, naturally enough suggests to Englishmen,

"An old and haughty nation proud in arms,"

the idea, how poor indeed were those serf subjects of Muscovy, when placed face to face, and hand to hand, with men whose progenitors had rushed forth to certain victory at Cressy, Agincourt, Blenheim, and Waterloo.

The Czar himself, unless, like most of our modern rulers, too great a simpleton to deserve a worse character, can hardly have any high opinion of those military men who crouch before him. The thing is out of the question. Before the poor men are the results of a deadly war. Miserable as were the exploits of our own guards—and we blush to write that such was the case—they were, after all, gentlemen and freemen. When will Russia produce such a man as Sir George Cathcart? A Russian Cardigan would be a prodigy; and indeed, no man but one of English birth could ever have made that splendid charge into "the Valley of Death."

Still Russia has great military men, in their way, and those who look upon those comprising the deputation, must confess that such is the case. There, at least, is one hero in a bad cause, famous throughout Europe, the young and gallant soldier, the defender of Sebastopol, the intrepid Todleben. His carriage is noble and full of hero-like decision, but his step falters and he limps on with the aid of a cane, which tells how sorely he still suffers from a wound received in the trenches before the town which his genius so long defended. His countenance is full of intelligence, yet mild and modest; his chin, the most remarkable feature in his face, is finely developed, and bespeaks the iron will which belongs to the great soldier. All eyes are upon him. There, too, walk



GENERAL VIEW OF THE KREMLIN, MOSCOW.

the friend of the Emperor Nicholas, the guardian of his son, the negotiator of the Treaty of Paris, the upright and gallant Orloff; and there also is desecrated the world-famous Menschikoff, who was selected for that disastrous mission to Constantinople out of which grew the war—the "Menschikoff au paletole" as some foreigner irreverently whispers.

A drawing-room in the grand old palace of the Kremlin is of course an imposing affair; and that assemblage which our engraving represents was peculiarly magnificent. The Emperor, who wore the uniform of a general, took up his position at the foot of the throne; the Empress, who appeared in the ancient costume of Russia, standing on his left hand. The Grand Dukes—the brothers of the Czar—walked about the room conversing with the officers present; and the Grand Dukes of a younger generation—the sons and nephews of the Czar—were members of the deputation. Indeed it was about the most interesting part of the ceremony to witness the affectionate embraces the little fellows received from their imperial parents as they retired with the deputation.

THE CZAR ENTERING THE GATEWAY OF THE RESURRECTION AT MOSCOW.

The recent entry of the Czar Alexander into that ancient capital—so long the residence of his ancestors—was, as our readers are well aware, one of the most imposing spectacles that Christendom has for long witnessed.

We have already described, at length, the entry of the Czar into Moscow, and indicated that perhaps one of the most striking parts of the ceremony was his passing through the Gate of the Resurrection. It was there that the Imperial party was received by the civil governor and civil authorities of the city. A brief halt took place, and the Czar, with his spouse, and the princes and princesses of the blood, having dismounted, and knelt before the image of our Lady of Iberia, the procession again moved forward.

Our readers will form from the accompanying engraving, a good idea of the grandeur of the scene.

THE CORONATION FETES.

THE PEOPLE'S FETE.

In point of fact the people have had two *fetes*—the banquet in the Petrovsky plains, and the masquerade in the Palace of the Kremlin. The fireworks and illuminations with which the rejoicings are to terminate will form the third grand popular entertainment; but for the present we have only to speak of the first, which, but for the badness of the weather, would probably have been the most interesting of all. During the display of fireworks, "the people" will scarcely be visible, except, of course, during the discharge of the final bouquet, which is to consist of something like forty thousand rockets. At the Kremlin masquerade, unconstrained as they were in their demeanour—which was quite unexpectedable—they must still have felt that they were visitors in a palace. But in the broad plains of the Petrovsky we had hoped to see them eating, drinking, and amusing themselves, without reference to anything but their own particular tastes. We knew that neither soldiers, nor any kind of police, would be present to impose even the semblance of restraint, and that but for the appearance of the Emperor among them for about a quarter of an hour—which would only have the effect of adding to the general delight—the people would be left entirely to themselves with their roast sheep, their sausages, their wine, their tea, their swings, their *montagnes Russes*, and their *al fresco* theatres. All this we saw, but we had reckoned without the rain, which came down in such torrents as to dilute the wine and damp everything.

As early as six o'clock in the morning persons living on the road which leads to Petrovsky were waked by the numerous passers-by, who were already making for the scene of the feast. There are always plenty of early risers in Moscow, and many persons carry the eccentric habit so far as to get up in time to attend the service of the church at five and even at four o'clock. Still, for the great majority, six is rather an early hour; and the first visitors to the Petrovsky, if they had consulted the wishes of those who live near the approaches to the triumphal arch, would certainly have delayed their journey until a somewhat later period of the morning, which would have been the more reasonable, as the feast was not expected to commence until one or two in the afternoon.

Although everyone who possessed an official programme of the *fetes* of the coronation was aware that the "Festin du Peuple" would be one of the most important of them, it was not until the evening before the banquet that every one was made aware of the exact day and hour at which it was to take place. Doubtless the Russian public learn these things readily enough through the Moscow journals; but as the only two newspapers published in this city are printed in Russian, the information is somewhat difficult of access to a foreigner, who is unable to decipher the greater part even of the thirty-five letters which constitute the alphabet. I hear, too, after the occurrence of the event, that the time fixed for the feast was announced from the pulpit in all the Greek churches some days before; this also was likely to be lost upon an English newspaper correspondent.

However, at about one o'clock in the morning of the day appointed for feasting and total abstinence from work, I was waked to receive a letter enclosing a ticket for one of the galleries or "tribunes" opposite the people's dinner-tables, and adjoining the enclosure in which a small pavilion had been erected for the accommodation of the Emperor. Tickets of this description have generally been forwarded only at the last moment, and it must have been no easy matter to distribute them, even then, in a manner at all likely to give satisfaction, for whenever there have been three or four thousand places to give away, there have been at least thirty or forty thousand applications for them. The English correspondents have received all the tickets and invitations that could be desired through the English Embassy, without even having the trouble of applying for them; and if they have been accurately informed as to the time at which such entertainment or ceremony was to take place, to say nothing of the privilege of viewing it from the best possible position—when there was any position to choose—they were indebted for it to the attention of Lord Wodehouse, who, as well as Lord Granville, has done all in his power to facilitate their labours.

As holders of tickets were invited to be in their places by half-past twelve, we requested to be informed to what extent we were to be victimised in the matter of conveyance as early as half-past eight, and ascertained that it could be managed for ten roubles. The rain had not yet commenced, or we should have been asked twice or three times the sum. The vehicle we hired was neither a *droshki*, nor a *pralofka*, nor a *tingka*, nor, above all, a *telega* (the species of cart in which a certain Belgian journalist affirms that he drove to his hotel in St. Petersburg). If, for the sake of local colouring, we call it a *calchki*, we must at the same time state that it was nothing more or less—a little less, if anything—than what in Western Europe is known as a *calèche*. We had next to inspect the horses; for although there are but few bad ones in Moscow, a coach proprietor will contrive to find some for you, unless you go into his stables and choose for yourself. About the harness and the vehicle itself, you are more secure; for, if a wheel comes off, or a strap breaks, or you are, for any other reason, brought to a stand-still, the owner of the vehicle forfeits all claim to remuneration.

Proceeding from Moscow through the triumphal arch towards the Petrovsky—the road by which the Emperor made his grand entry into the city—we pass numbers of cheap restaurants, wine-shops, refreshment-stalls, and booths, which remind us of the approach to a Parisian barrier. Each shop has its sign, executed in the most primitive style of art, and accordingly, in this respect no longer suggesting Paris, except by way of contrast. Before these signs can sufficiently explain what is sold in the shops which they adorn, it appears to us necessary, in the first instance, to explain the signs. At present, the handcufts exhibited over the doors of the bakers' shops, might make one mistake them for police offices; and even the boots, with well-marked insteps and high heels, as depicted on the sign-board of the hosier, would in themselves scarcely lead one to believe that he sold socks. It is true that the Russian bread, which is light and excellent (the people not being sufficiently civilised to know how to adulterate it), is made in the form of rings; but it is not true that boots and

socks are identical in shape; nor that holsters, German sausages, and muffs, are so similar in form as to be undistinguishable. The fact appears to be, that the Russians have conventional forms for the various articles of trade. They employ hieroglyphics; and it is really necessary to live a short time in the country in order to obtain the clue to the system. At present, if Mother Hubbard found herself suddenly transported to Russia, with her dog, she would probably "go to the locksmith's to buy him a loaf," after previously visiting the baker's to buy him a key.

We were at least a mile from the triumphal arch and about two from the Petrovsky Palace, in front of which the tents had been erected for the feast, when we found ourselves in the midst of a crowd formed by the junction of three separate lines of human beings at one point. The carriages of every denomination were advancing in three distinct channels, between which the mob, consisting almost exclusively of mujiks, proceeded forward silently, good-humouredly but earnestly, with wooden spoons and mugs in their hands, and not unfrequently with tubs on their heads, showing that they meant business, and that, after eating plentifully and drinking copiously, they intended to have the decency to bring something away with them as a *souvenir*. At intervals along the road were the Cossacks, who exhibited their customary activity and skill in preserving the lines into which the vehicles were separated, and in preventing anyone from breaking the *queue*.

As we approached the scene of the feast we observed that all the restaurants in the vicinity of the triumphal arch were shut.

The triumphal arch, which in form is similar to the arch of the Carrousel in front of the Tuileries, though considerably larger, is dedicated to the Emperor Alexander I. It was erected in honour of the retreat of the French in 1812, and more especially in honour of the rebuilding of Moscow, as proclaimed in the inscription, which on one side is in Latin, on the other in Russ. It is constructed of red marble, and is surrounded by the chariot with the prancing horses which is seen on so many edifices and monuments in Russia. All the Russian sculpture, we may here remark, is full of action, and there is scarcely a statue to be seen in St. Petersburg or Moscow, whether an original or a copy, in a state of repose. At a distance the arch appears to have a black cornice, but on approaching it we discover this apparent cornice to be a dense row of dark blue pigeons, which now are seen to be full of life, and which cluster together like flies. In Russia the pigeon is a sacred bird, and in Moscow, as in St. Petersburg, pigeons, *droshkis*, and soldiers, fill the streets. Ignorant of the interest taken in them by "Bell's Life," and never dreaming of the existence of the Red House, nor of those pies which are not *always* filled with rooks, these gentle birds will fly in at your window, perch on your shoulder, and exhibit in a thousand ways their consciousness of the privileges they enjoy, and which they appear to claim with all the confidence of a pretty woman or a spoiled child. There is as much difference between these holy doves and the pigeons let out of the trap in Battersea fields as between the graceful Angoras of Paris and the shrill-voiced tile-infesters of our native land. Through a feeling which persons who are themselves afraid to go to sea on a Friday would not hesitate to term superstition, the pigeon is respected in Russia as the emblem of the third person in the Trinity; and, like all other animals, responding to kindness by trustfulness, these naturally timid creatures have at last acquired the strange faculty of approaching human beings without feeling the least apprehension of danger from their cruelty and violence.

At the triumphal arch we had to make way for the Emperor's horses, which were being taken to the Petrovsky Palace, whence he was to start on an equestrian tour through the crowd.

After passing the arch, the carriages separated into three lines, and passing down the one reserved for those who held tickets, I soon reached the galleries in front of the chateau. As all the Russian officers, without exception, speak French, they are generally applied to by Englishmen, who are at a loss to obtain information, on no matter what subject. Sometimes a *droshki* driver has to be told where to proceed, sometimes an address has to be procured, or the price of something to be ascertained, and in all cases a Russian officer is appealed to, and the appeal is always responded to in the readiest and most polite manner. As there was no lack of these obliging gentlemen on the spot, I soon found the entrance to the particular stand indicated on the card of admission, and on ascending found myself with my back to the Petrovsky Palace, with the semi-circular rows of tables on my right, the enclosure containing the *rotunda* erected for the emperor immediately in front, and crowds of mujiks, mujiks' wives, and mujiks' children on all sides. About this time the rain began to fall, and before long it was coming down in torrents. Still the crowd continued to increase, and the most extraordinary thing about it, after the fact of its immense size, was, that a large proportion of its honourable members were standing upon the tables at which they were intended to have sat down and dined.

We had seen the tables on a previous day, and had intended to pass alongside all of them, but when we found that the aggregate length was about eleven versts, nearly eight miles, we at once abandoned the notion. Upon the tables, which were covered with white cloths nailed down to the wood, were sheep roasted whole, and dressed in brilliant scarlet jackets, sausages suspended from poles in rich festoons, pies by thousands, and cakes by tens of thousands. But early in the morning of the feast, the sheep were cut up and placed on large wooden dishes, where they were to remain until the signal was given for the commencement of the banquet. This signal was to be the hoisting of a flag from the imperial *rotunda*, and it was understood that this flag was to be hoisted just before the arrival of the Emperor. As several false accounts of the number of sheep placed on the table, the quantities of vodka thrown up from the fountains, &c., have been circulated about Moscow, and as one of those bills of fare in particular, goes so far as to give about a quarter of a sheep and four pounds of sausages to each person, we may here state, that although the food had been ordered in profusion, the number of flocks of sheep present in a roasted condition has been much exaggerated, while as to the unfathomable quantities of vodka said to have been imbibed, we can only state that not a drop of that liquor was there seen during the entire *fete*, excepting some which a few highly prudent individuals had thought fit to bring with them. The real bill of fare was as follows:—

2,496 pounds of ham (89,856 lbs.)
936 pounds of sausages (33,796 lbs.)
312 pounds of butter (11,232 lbs.)
3,120 pieces of roast meat.
12,480 pairs of fowls.
49,920 pirogas (or meat cakes).
24,920 *vatroushkis* (or pies with cream).
45,088 *kalatchiks* (pies without English equivalents).
50,000 biscuits.
600 pounds of gingerbread (21,600 lbs.)
1,252 vedias of wine (12,520 quarts).
3,120 vedias of beer (31,200 quarts).

Each table was also abundantly supplied with tea, nuts, apples, &c., in quantities which I must content myself with characterising as enormous.

As I have already stated, this stupendous banquet, of such Homeric, such patriarchal proportions, was to be attacked immediately a standard was hoisted from the *rotunda* erected for the Emperor. It appears that the morning's rain, which had penetrated everywhere, had damped the flag to such an extent that the soldier who had charge of it doubted whether it could be hoisted with proper effect, and determined to satisfy himself on the point by making the experiment before the Emperor's arrival. The experiment was only too successful, the hoisting of the flag was accepted as the signal for the commencement of the feast; it was commenced accordingly, and long before the arrival of the Emperor everything had been eaten. The fountains of wine, beer, and tea, did not however begin to play until his Majesty made his appearance, and during the following quarter of an hour the scene was highly interesting. From the Petrovsky Palace, with its red turrets and its green dome, to the enclosure in the middle of which a temporary palace of the most unpretending nature had been erected for the Emperor, the line was kept by the celebrated *Circassians*, in their chain armour and crimson uniforms. The enclosure was like a large circus, the little edifice in the centre bearing no small resemblance to an *al fresco* café. At various points in the circumference of the enclosure little summer-house-like structures had been raised for the ac-

commodation of military bands, which played throughout the *fete*. Right and left, at some little distance from the enclosure, and parallel to the Petrovsky Palace, were two *Montagnes Russes*, looking like suspension bridges; and at right angles to them, and considerably nearer the enclosure, were little theatres resembling those of the *café* concerts in the Champs Elysées. There was also a real circus, independently of the enclosure which had the appearance of one, and the young lady who was in hope and its pride could be seen from the gallery of the *corps diplomatique*, dancing elastically upon the back of her horse until at length the rain had completely saturated the poor girl's clothes, and she looked, in her white muslin dress which clung round her limbs, like a fly which had just emerged from a milk-jug. There must have been wailing and lamentation, too, in the theatres proper—we mean those in which a species of legitimate drama was being performed—for we saw the *jeune premier* holding an umbrella over his curly head, while the *ingénue* was obliged to conceal her charms beneath a markintosh. There were swings, too, in which the swinging *dilettanti* were whirled round with a velocity which for some time must have dried them as fast as they became soaked. It is seen that in Russia the Emperor gives his people *panem et circenses*, and something more; they have also roasted sheep and swings. Nor should we forget the climbing poles, with objects of popular ambition (such as sausages) at the top, rising like masts from the sea of mujiks as far as the eye could stretch.

The Emperor appeared between two showers. He rode a white horse, was followed by the usual brilliant staff, and was received with shouts of enthusiasm. After his departure the rain soon dispersed, we were almost say dissolved, the crowd, who returned to their homes in the most orderly manner. There were no soldiers or police on the ground to interfere with the people—in fact, it is one of the people's privileges on these occasions to be left entirely to itself—and yet there were no accidents, no disturbances likely to cause any. I passed thousands of the holiday-makers as I returned to Moscow, and did not see one individual who was not sober, peaceable, and generally well-behaved. Some had wooden spoons or mugs in their hands; others had little tubs which, suspended enough, they wore on their heads, in order to be protected against the rain; many had only a little piece of the scarlet cloth which had been laid down on the road along which the Emperor had passed in the midst of his people; but every one had some reminiscence of this interesting spectacle which only wanted a few rays of sunshine to make it a magnificent spectacle.

THE MASKED BALL AT THE KREMLIN.

The first peculiarity about the masked ball at the Kremlin, is that no one wears a mask, and the second, that no one dances. There are no signs whatever remaining of the ancient masquerade, although in the matter of costume there is more variety, more brilliancy, and more richness, to be seen than at any number of fancy-dress balls that ever took place either at the Opéra Comique or the Hanover Square Rooms.

The only semblance of dancing that remains is a promenade executed to the music of a polonaise, and led by the Emperor himself, who gives his hand to the Empress, to one of the principal ambassadresses, or to some other lady of very high distinction.

The rooms thrown open on the occasion are six in number, two of which are in the Terema, or ancient apartments of the Czars, the others forming part of the New Palace which was built by the Emperor Nicholas, and which adjoins the Terema.

At one end of the suite is the Granovitaya Palata, the throne-room of the Terema, in which the Imperial banquet took place immediately after the coronation.

At the other extremity is the Salle St. André, the throne-room of the New Palace.

The Granovitaya Palata is hung with crimson velvet, studded all over with gold eagles, as on the coronation day. Otherwise, its vaulted roof and its simple, massive architecture, would offer a striking contrast to the brilliancy and richness of the apartments in the New Palace. In one corner of the room are the thrones used at the coronation, removed for the occasion from the Cathedral of the Assumption, and with the same dais, the same ostrich feathers, the same decorations in every respect, which I described at length in my account of that ceremony. In another corner of the room a square enclosure is made by means of a light railing, within which the Emperor retires for a few minutes after making his promenade through the entire suite of rooms, commencing with the Salle St. André. The enclosure in question contains a few chairs, a card table, two packs of cards, a chalk pencil for marking the points, and a little hard, sharp brush for rubbing out the chalk marks. This compartment, however, is merely a resting-place, and the only use of the cards is to aid in giving the general appearance of a ball-room to the solemn, magnificent apartment in which no one dances. In another corner of the room is an *estrade*, occupied by the band of the Grenadiers de la Cour. From the middle of the floor, with its carpeting of scarlet, rises the massive white pillar which forms the sole support of the roof, and which is decorated with antique vases and plateaux of gold and silver. On the wall are enormous candelabra of gilt bronze, representing the double-headed eagle.

The throne-room at the other extremity of the suite, both as regards architecture and decoration, is less simple and less grand than the ancient reception-room and hall of justice of the Czars. It is lofty, spacious, and profusely ornamented with carved mouldings, gilt cornices, and painted ceilings.

The Salle St. Alexandre, which adjoins the Salle St. André, is in the same style. As we enter it, it appears to be all gold and glass.

The Salle St. George, which is the principal, is at the same time the most brilliant, and in my opinion altogether the most beautiful of the suite. It is decorated, or rather left without decoration, in a style which is altogether Russian. Its alabaster walls are merely relieved by a thin, delicate gold moulding, and its white ceiling by gilt stars of the order of St. George. It is entirely without furniture, if we except the white benches or elongated stools with gilt feet, which are seen in the recesses at the back of the magnificent colonnade which faces the windows. This colonnade is composed of ten pillars, whose dazzling whiteness reflects the light in every direction. The hall is lighted not only by chandeliers, but also by a continuous row of wax lights extending all round the room and placed at intervals of just sufficient distance to prevent contact.

The Salle St. Vladimir is a sort of ante-room to the new apartments, and the Vestibule Saint is a sort of ante-room to the old.

The Emperor, as he promenades from the Salle St. André to the Granovitaya Palata, or from the Granovitaya Palata to the Salle St. André, is followed by the ambassadors, the principal officials of state, and afterwards by all who choose to take part in the procession, no one however doing so who is not either in uniform or in court dress. Every gentleman leads a lady by the hand.

The crowd, or guests as we ought to call them, form a line on each side of the *cortège*. The Emperor is literally among his people, he is literally in contact with them; for as he raises his hand to salute in reply to the enthusiastic shouts with which he is everywhere received, he is sometimes unable to do so without touching the person next to his hand. But it must not be imagined that there is any pushing or even pressing. The people have too much respect for their Emperor, and their host, who in his turn, has full confidence in his subjects and his guests; for, as at all the other popular *fetes* in Moscow, I notice the entire absence of soldiery and police from among the people, and notice too that their absence is appreciated. These giant, in bearskin caps, under the colonnade, are a party of the Grenadiers de la Cour on duty at the palace, and have nothing to do with the question of order, supposing for an instant that such a question could be raised. And yet, the persons who fill the six rooms of the palace belong to every class of society: shop girls and duchesses, mujiks and boyars, are all together in the room, and of the two orders the mujiks are certainly the more numerous. They are wearing black and brown coats for the evening, but it is easy to see that they will not wear them to-morrow, and that the sheepskin shoub will be resumed before the next twelve hours have expired. Rumour says that forty thousand tickets have been issued, but Rumour, as usual, makes an absurd mistake, and a Master of the Ceremonies, who is much better informed (I have not yet ascertained whether he is a Grand Master or an Arch Master) assured me yesterday that the number only amounted to fifteen thousand, exclusive of invitations to the supper, of which eight hundred were given out. In

any case, and whatever the number of invitations may have been, I can testify to one thing of my own knowledge—that there was a very great crowd and very little pushing. Why is this not always the case in Paris, where, at an entertainment given to Prince Napoleon, the buffet was stormed and actually carried by assault before the speech-making had been terminated? Why do they not take a lesson from the humble mujik, even at another place where it is said that trains are torn and head-dresses demolished, and this almost in the presence of a sovereign, and that sovereign a lady? The exterior of the palace was brilliantly illuminated, and the balcony of the facade, which had been converted into a most elegant conservatory, was hung all over with Chinese lanterns.

THE BALL AT LORD GRANVILLE'S.

LORD GRANVILLE'S horses and Lord Granville's tent have perhaps caused as much conversation as any two subjects which have been started since the coronation, or, indeed, since the arrival of the Ambassadors to take part in the ceremonies and entertainments consequent upon it. With his horses we have at present nothing to do; but as the tent has just been applied to the purpose for which it was brought to Russia, we feel called upon for several reasons to chronicle its decided success.

The house occupied in Moscow by our special Ambassador is beautifully furnished, and contains some admirable rooms; but like most of the Russian houses—which in this respect resemble the Russian churches—it is divided and subdivided to such an extent, that, although a large house, it scarcely contains a room large enough for a tolerably large ball. Lord Granville's house has nevertheless its ball-room—and an exquisite room it is; without any decorations except the chandeliers; without any furniture or hangings, but with walls of alabaster like those of the Assemblée de la Noblesse, and to take a still more notable instance, those of the Salle St. George, in the Palace of the Kremlin. Nothing can be more pure or more brilliant than the effect of the white light of wax reflected from these marble walls. Lord Granville had already given three balls, at which almost every one of importance in Moscow, from the Grand Duke Constantine downwards, had been present, but the last ball was to be given to the Emperor himself; so that, although the room of white marble had hitherto sufficed for the dancers, it was necessary on the grand occasion to have something more spacious, and in default of a more spacious room, a more spacious tent was decided on. The white apartment was converted into a supper saloon, and the tent was erected on a scaffolding built in the garden; for in Moscow houses have gardens, and not only gardens but stables, and sometimes even farmyards. Moscow has long been called "the great village," and its numerous detached mansions, with their dependencies, their outhouses, and their grounds which sometimes contain miniature, certainly entitle it to the appellation in the present day.

As the tent had to be erected in, or rather over, the garden, and as the garden was full of trees, it was obviously difficult to avoid introducing some of the trees into the tent; and so skilful an advantage was taken of this apparent difficulty, that on the night of the ball the trees really appeared to have been brought in purposely. If these tents should become fashionable in Russia—and that they will be so next summer, we have little doubt—none will be declared complete without a due supply of trees in the interior.

The tent was lighted by seven very handsome chandeliers, formed of carved wood, and by a number of candle-lamps, which Lord Granville had brought with him from England, and which had the evident advantage of allowing ladies to pass under them without fear of melted wax.

The Emperor arrived at about half-past ten, and danced several times. Among his partners were Lady Granville and Lady Peel.

The Marquis of Stafford's pipe was of course present, but his pipe was mute; nor, as far as we have hitherto been able to ascertain, has any remembrance been made to him on the subject. At the previous ball he had favoured the company with a bagpipe solo, which, to say the least, astonished them.

Altogether, Lord Granville's ball was a complete success, and every one who has had the least communication with him, is delighted at such having been the case. The greatest good-will has been shown by all the members of the English embassies, whether special or permanent, in obtaining tickets of admission, invitations, and information of every kind, for the correspondents of the London journals, who will certainly chronicle the success of the British Ambassador's ball with more than ordinary pleasure.

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF RUSSIA are to make a solemn entry into St. Petersburg, with the same amount of state that attended their entry into Moscow.

LADY GRANVILLE'S PEARLS.—The Moscow correspondent of "Le Nord" gives the following doubtful story:—"On the day of the coronation, and at the moment when the cortege was entering the Kremlin, a magnificent pearl necklace worn by Lady Granville broke, and the pearls, each of which was of great value, were scattered at her feet. Her ladyship did not evince the slightest emotion at the circumstance, but proceeded on her way, leaving behind her the remnants of an ornament which would be a fortune to any one less wealthy than the lady of the English Ambassador."

THE CZAR AND PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF.—The Czar has given his portrait to Prince Gortschakoff, accompanied by a letter, expressing his "high esteem and sincere gratitude for the brilliant defence of the territory attacked by the most powerful States of Europe—a contest in which he raised for himself, as well as for the Russian army, a monument of immortal glory on the ruins of Sebastopol, and in a sanguinary combat, effected with the army the passage across an arm of the sea, an unheard-of feat in military history."

THE POPULATION OF RUSSIA.—A census of the Russian empire was taken by order of the Emperor at the time of his accession to the throne, and the following are the results. The total number of the population amounts to sixty-three millions, the principal elements of which give results unknown to the rest of Europe. The clergy of the Russian Church stand for the enormous number of 510,000; that of the tolerated creeds, 35,000; the hereditary nobility, 155,000; the petty bourgeoisie, including discharged soldiers, 425,000; foreigners residing temporarily, 40,000; different bodies of Cossacks colonised on the Oural, the Don, the Volga, the Black Sea, the Baikal, the Bashkirs, and the irregular Calmucks, 2,000,000; the population of the towns, the middle and lower classes, 5,000,000; the population of the country parts, 45,000,000; the wandering tribes, 500,000; the inhabitants of the trans-Caucasian possessions, 1,400,000; the Kingdom of Poland, 4,200,000; the Grand Duchy of Finland, 1,400,000; and the Russian colonies in America, 71,000. At the accession of the Emperor Nicholas the census then taken only gave a population of 51,000,000. This large increase in the space of thirty years may however be readily understood when it is considered that the Russian territory has now an extent of 22,000,000 of square kilometres (a kilometre is five-eighths of a mile), and a length of coast of 27,000 kilometres. If the population continues to increase in the same proportion, it will by 1900 amount to 100,000,000. The Russian Empire, according to the same document, contains 112 different peoples, divided into twelve principal races, the most numerous of which is the Slavonian, including the Russians properly so called, the Poles, the Cossacks, and the Servian colonists of the Danube. These populations inhabit the finest and the most important provinces of the empire.

INTERCOURSE WITH JAPAN.—The Emperor of Japan, in order to solve the questions that have arisen out of the treaties which he had recently made with several of the great Powers, convoked on the 22nd of June, at Jeddo, a solemn assembly of his principal councillors. It was decided at this meeting that two ports of the empire, Nagasaki and Hakodadi, should be open for the ships of all nations, for the purpose of effecting repairs, obtaining provisions, and taking in their coal; that all the other ports of the empire should be equally open for ships in distress requiring refuge, but that these should not have the right of remaining any length of time. No foreigner is to be entitled to penetrate into the interior of the empire without special permission from the chief of the State. Respecting the commercial question, nothing has been decreed at present.

THE NAUPEL EXPEDITION.—The British men-of-war, the Conqueror and the Wellington, were at Ajaccio (Corsica), on the 7th. Admiral Dundas is on board the latter. The approaching arrival is announced of three other English ships, of which two will be steam corvettes and one a steam despatch-boat.

A STATUE OF MELANCTHON is to be raised by the side of that of Luther at Wittenberg (Prussia).

THE NEW FREE TRADE HALL AT MANCHESTER.—The inauguration of the New Free Trade Hall took place on Wednesday by a meeting of the proprietors and their friends, followed by a dress ball, at which 2,500 persons were present, and which went off satisfactorily. We defer a full report till next week, when it will be accompanied by illustrations.

OCCUPATION OF GALATZ BY THE AUSTRIANS.

THE Austrians have suddenly occupied Galatz with 4,000 men. They have taken the administration of public affairs into their own hands there, and at other points of the Danube. Sir Henry Bulwer is about to return home, as these steps render the offices of the Commissioners perfectly useless. It remains to be seen if these events have taken place by permission of Turkey.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

A MEETING of the depositors in the Royal British Bank was held on Monday evening at St. Martin's Hall for the purpose of receiving the report of the Committee appointed by them on the 5th ult. From this report we learn that the claims against the bank are 6,000 in number. The assets amounted to £288,000, as against £539,031 liabilities. "The last call of £50 per share," the Chairman went on to say, "which the bank made before it broke, would realise the sum of £64,870, which, added to the other sum, would give the assets at £176,140, which, by making a call of £80 per share, would pay all demands in full." In this statement there is either a clerical error, or the Chairman was dealing with a point within the knowledge of the meeting, and consequently made his statement in a manner which was intelligible and satisfactory to his hearers, although to a stranger it might appear like false arithmetic. It is not, however, very important, as far as the great features of the case are concerned, to fathom this seeming contradiction. The general facts remain the same, and the question stands—is it on the whole advisable for the depositors to accept the compromise suggested in the report of the committee? This is a dividend of 5s. in the pound in December next, and promissory notes, issued under the authority of the Court of Chancery, for the payment of a further 5s. in the pound at the expiration of six months, and other similar notes for the additional and final payment of 5s. in the pound at the end of twelve months. Then, on the condition of a rebate of 25 per cent.—a heavy loss—the depositors would obtain what amounts well nigh to an immediate settlement. This is of course the great desideratum. The claimants comprise a great number of persons of limited fortune, and of "little shopkeepers." To defer payment in their case is to bring them to the ground.

There was also a numerous attendance at the Auction Mart, on Saturday, to witness the disposal of about three thousand pounds' worth of claims on the Royal British Bank, consisting of balances, current accounts and deposit notes carrying interest. It is estimated that between three and four hundred were present, but the competition was not very active, and the biddings, though numerous, did not realise a high point. Mr. Shuttleworth, the auctioneer, began by asking 15s. in the pound, but no response was made, and the first offer commenced at 5s. In some cases the various lots were run up to 15s. 6d., but it is not supposed that these were actually sold. In other instances 9s. 6d., 10s., and 11s. were offered, and it is thought that some of these may have been bona fide bids. As testing the value of the debts of the bank the result cannot be regarded as altogether satisfactory. Depositors in, and other creditors of, the Royal British Bank are reminded that they are now required to forward the particulars of their claims to Mr. R. P. Hardinge, the interim manager of the company. Mr. Hardinge announces that attendance will be given at the different offices of the bank at various periods up to the 21st of November, with a view to receiving and examining the whole of the claims, which will then be "proved" before the judge in Chancery.

MR. MACGREGOR AND THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—Mr. John Macgregor, M.P. (still dating from the Athenæum Club), has addressed the following letter to the editor of the "North British Daily Mail":—"Sir,—Finding that during my absence injurious and unfounded charges have been made against me, with reference to the Royal British Bank, I have now only time briefly to say, that I will soon and fully refute those charges. I was neither the projector nor the founder of that bank. I was, it is true, deluded into the imprudence of becoming a director of it. But after my election in 1852, for Glasgow, I resolved to have no connection with any Joint Stock Company whatever; and I have carried my resolution into effect.—Meantime, I am, your obedient servant, J. MACGREGOR."

THE GREAT BELL FOR THE WESTMINSTER CLOCK.—The schooner Wave, chartered for the conveyance of the Westminster clock bell to London, has at length sailed, after undergoing the necessary repairs caused by the excessive straining she received by the falling of the bell into her hold on the 13th ult. The repairs were considerably greater than it was at first anticipated. A new foremast had to be supplied, and several minor repairs arising out of the accident, were rendered necessary. While she was in the dock the bell was not lifted out of the vessel, but by means of a substantial framework erected amidships, it was raised a few feet from the bottom of the hold, so as to remove the strain and allow the interior repairs to be completed. Previously to the accident, which occurred during the shipment of the bell, an insurance to the extent of £3,000 had been effected with a metropolitan insurance office for the transit of the bell to London in the Wave. The accident to the vessel caused, we understand, some demur on the part of the underwriters to the continuance of the policy, unless the bell were conveyed in another vessel.

PURIFICATION OF THE THAMES.—At a meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works last week, a new proposal for Thames purification was submitted by Mr. McClean, of Great George Street, Westminster. Mr. McClean proposes that the Thames should be purified and the sewage "utilised," by collecting it from both sides of the river at West Ham. The sewage of the South side would be collected near Southwark Bridge, and conveyed across the river in pipes to Aldgate, thence to West Ham. At West Ham there would be a pumping station; and from West Ham "to the German ocean" there would be a conduit, covered as far as "Battle Bridge" on the river Crouch, and thence open through the marshes to the sea. Cost, £1,600,000; period of construction, four years. The sewage would be useful to the agriculture of Essex, and would not be offensive to many people, as the population is sparse. Thanks were voted to Mr. McClean for his suggestion.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.—There is now a prospect of the long-talked-of new street from the Town Hall, Southwark, to the York Road, near to the South-Western Railway station, being formed. For some time the Chief Commissioner of Works has held in hand a Government grant of £90,000, to be applied for the formation of a new street in this locality, but to this grant was attached the proviso that if the street was not formed within a stated period, the sum would be applied to other purposes. This time being now nearly expired, the "authorities" are waking up to the necessity of seizing the advantage. In addition to this new street in Southwark, the plan for opening up a wide thoroughfare between the corner of St. Martin's Lane, and Long Acre, and King Street, Covent Garden, is likely at length to be adopted, the Duke of Bedford, the principal, if not the sole ground landlord, offering to contribute £15,000 towards the expense.

THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY.—The question of the abolition of fees on grants of "freedom of the City," was brought on Monday before the Common Council. A report was brought up from the London Corporation Bill Committee, recommending the payment by the Court of the sum of 5s., payable under the London Bridge Approaches Fund Act, upon all admissions to the freedom; for discontinuing the comparators, and for repealing so much of the orders of this Court of the 29th day of April and 5th day of November, 1839, as relates to the fees to be taken by the comparators, so that all persons entitled upon application at the Chamberlain's Office at certain times might be admitted to the freedom of the City without payment of any fee whatever. The report was unanimously adopted, as was also a motion ordering the Chamberlain at once to admit to the freedom, without fees, all parties applying whose names were in the Parliamentary registration.

IRON PAVEMENT.—The experimental iron pavement laid down in Leadenhall Street, opposite the Church of St. Katherine Cree, does not exhibit that fixedness and stability so essential to be regarded in the pavement of the permanent carriage ways of the metropolis. The various compartments in which this pavement is laid down already show very considerable indications of wear, and the vibration to which they are perpetually subjected shows a certain looseness and want of tenacity and endurance, the reverse of which is the characteristic of granite paving, especially when properly laid in the narrow-gauged courses.

A POLITICAL SOIRÉE.—The Chartists of London, convened by Mr. Ernest Jones, held a "political soirée" on Tuesday evening in St. Martin's Hall. About three hundred persons were present, but the hall presented, nevertheless, a rather desolate appearance. Vocalists were engaged, and between the entertainment thus furnished, and the addresses of Mr. Jones, the evening passed away quite to the satisfaction of his friends.

EDUCATION AT THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—On Monday a meeting was held at the Polytechnic Institution, to inaugurate a series of evening classes which are about to be formed in union with the Society of Arts. The chair was taken by Dr. Booth, treasurer of that society, and there were also present Dr. Spurgin, Dr. Hene Jones, Dr. White, Mr. Bidlake, Mr. Winkworth, Mr. Bonister, Captain Pollock, the Hon. Captain Munde, Mr. Wentworth Dilke, &c. The number of persons in the hall was between 1,400 and 2,000.

LAMENTABLE CASE.—A great deal of excitement was lately caused by the attempted suicide of the wife of a Mr. Hopkinson, a chemist and druggist of Ratcliff. Mr. Hopkinson was an habitual drunkard, and this habit so grew upon him, that his wife, a well-educated young woman, was obliged to dispense for him. Unfortunately, Mrs. Hopkinson sometimes drank too. About three weeks ago she attempted to commit suicide, by taking a dose of laudanum sufficient to kill ten people. By prompt assistance, however, she recovered. The case came before the magistrates; Mrs. Hopkinson was discharged, her husband being very severely reprimanded for allowing his wife to sell drugs and poisons while he indulged his vices. On the same evening they proceeded to the West-end to transact business with his attorney. They then repaired to a coffee house in Charing Cross, and while he was putting a cup of tea to his lips, and conversing with his wife, he ruptured a blood-vessel. Delirium tremens supervened, and he died on Monday night. He was twenty-nine years of age, and had been married only a year.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE NEW WEST END AND CRYSTAL PALACE RAILWAY.—Henry Benjamin Seal, aged 50, an engine-driver in the employ of Peto and Betts, the contractors for the New West End and Crystal Palace Railway, was crushed to death last week, by the falling of an engine and part of a train of ballast wagons, off Leigham Lane Bridge, near Norwood, into the roadway beneath. Several other persons, who were also on the engine at the time and fell with it, were so seriously injured that three of them were obliged to be taken to the hospital.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

On Tuesday, Parliament was further prorogued by Royal commission until the 13th of November next.

The Royal Commissioners having taken their seats at the foot of the throne, the Lord Chancellor directed the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod to summon "the Commons" to hear the commission read. In obedience to this direction, one of the clerks and the doorkeeper of the Lower House attended at the bar, as the representatives of her Majesty's most faithful Commons, and the commission was read accordingly.

The Lord Chancellor, in compliance with the terms of the commission, then declared that the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland stood further prorogued until the day air any named, and the ceremony (which was purely one of form) terminated.

The significant words, "then to meet for the despatch of business," &c., were not included in the commission.

ARCHDEACON DENISON.—It will be remembered that the Court, presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury, which was held at Bath in August last, in the case of Ditcher v. Denison, made a declaration to the effect that the doctrines of the Archdeacon's sermons were repugnant to the 28th and 29th Articles of the Church of England, and that his Grace allowed the Archdeacon till the 1st of October to revoke his errors. It was at the same time intimated, that if no such revocation were made and delivered into the Registry of Bath and Wells by that time, sentence in the case would be delivered on the 21st of the present month. In compliance with this declaration of the Court, the Archdeacon filed, on Tuesday, the 30th of September, a paper of extreme length, in which he defends the soundness of his doctrine, and cites a number of Protestant authorities in its behalf. Towards the end of the paper, the Archdeacon says:—"The defendant begs, however, respectfully to say, that as it is not his duty to contend for language only, apart from its substance—if it can be shown to him that the language which he has employed in teaching the doctrines of the Lord's Supper is in one or more particulars open to just exception, as conveying that doctrine under any aspect new or strange to the Reformed Church of England—the defendant will be ready to alter his language to such extent." The document concludes as follows:—"All which the defendant submitting respectfully to the consideration of the Court, has now only further to say, that it is not in his power to make the revocation required of him by the Court."

THE REV. CHARLES H. SPURGEON.

HIS ORIGIN.

MR. SPURGEON was born at Kelydon, in Essex, says "The Patriot;" but another informant says that Colchester was his birth-place. He came into the world on the 19th of June, 1834; he is, therefore, rather over twenty-two years of age;—a young man to make such a noise in the religious world. His father, Mr. John Spurgeon, was, and is now, for aught we know to the contrary, a clerk in the office of Mr. Mann, a merchant at Colchester, and preaches on the Sunday at the Independent Chapel at Tollesbury. His son Charles, the popular preacher, was educated at the School of Mr. Henry Lewis of Colchester; subsequently, he went to the Agricultural College at Maidstone for a year; afterwards, as a teacher, to a school at Newmarket; and from thence, as usher, to Mr. Leedham of Cambridge. At school, he showed no remarkable signs of talent, and when he left, could not devote much time to study, as, in addition to his duties of usher, he very soon had preaching engagements. His first settlement as a dissenting minister was at Waterbeach, Cambridge, where he was very popular, and it was from this place that he was allured to New-park Street Baptist Chapel by the deacons and managers, who were in want of a popular man to fill their deserted pews. Every Sunday did they look over their "beggarly account of empty boxes," and sigh at the remembrance of old times, until at length the bruit of this young man's fame reached them. The style of his preaching was very different to the old sobrieties of Dr. Rippon and his successors, and, moreover, he was "o'er young" to undertake a "London charge;" but, after due consideration had, the invitation was sent, and the tyro "came, and saw, and conquered." Indeed, it is now a question whether his success is not too great for the deacons and managers; for it is not unlikely that Mr. Spurgeon may soon contemplate a higher flight, and aspire to some still larger place of worship, and leave the Park Street deacons in worse case than they were before.

HIS POPULARITY.

Mr. Spurgeon's popularity is unprecedented; at all events, there has been nothing like it since the days of Wesley and Whitfield. Park Street Chapel cannot hold half the people that pant to hear him, and even Exeter Hall is too small. Indeed, it is reported on good authority that his friends mean to hire the Concert-room at the Surrey Gardens, and firmly believe that he will fill that. Nor is his popularity confined to London; in Scotland he was very much followed; and lately, we ourselves saw, on a weekday, in a remote agricultural district, long lines of people all converging to one point, and on inquiring of one of the party where they were going received for answer "We're a-going to hear Master Spudgin, sir."

ITS CAUSE.

This is a ticklish subject, for of all people that we have met with in our career, the Spurgeons are the most beligerent and heretic. They are as jealous for the reputation of their idol, as a Roman Catholic priest is for the authenticity of his "true Cross;" and only hint to one of them that you are not an enthusiastic admirer, and they "flare up" in a moment, as when a spark

"Lights on a heap of nitrous powder."

Still we must venture—premising, by way of deprecation of their wrath, if we should not quite agree with his worshippers—that as we are not of his professed followers, so we are not his enemy—we belong to no religious faction. First, then, let it be remembered that *ennui*, as it is called in fashionable life, is to members of the religious world very distressing on a Sunday. During the week, as most of them are actively engaged in business, time flies fast enough; but on the Sunday, dullness and weariness reign. They may not read newspapers, or what are called secular books—no business must be attended to—even walking or riding out for pleasure is considered to be of questionable propriety; and the "places of worship" to which they resort, some twice and some three times, are generally the most awfully dull places in the world. It may be said, "Why do they not break through these customs?—read what they please?—walk and ride where they choose?—and go where they like, or stop at home when they are so minded?" But those who ask these questions little know the quiet tyranny that reigns in the religious world. What would the minister say if Stubbs were not regularly in his pew? What would the "deacons" say if he were known to "break the Sabbath" by reading "secular books," or walking out as "worldly people" do? In short, what would Mrs. Grundy say? Now, this being the case, it is easily seen that any one who brings a little liveliness, novelty, or strangeness into this dull scene must be a God-send. And this Mr. Spurgeon has done; and we are persuaded that this in the main is the cause of his popularity. Go to most of the "places of worship," and you will find that the dullness is intolerable. Execrable singing, wearisome long prayers, and sermons as soporific as opium; but in Park Street, if there is nothing more, there is at least liveliness, and, for the present, novelty. We have been several times to Mr. Spurgeon's chapel, and for the life of us we can discover little more than this to account for the crowds that follow him. In the man himself, and in his preaching, there is really nothing remarkable, excepting his oddities. His doctrine is not new; on the contrary, it is nothing more than old Calvinism revived in its most uncompromising form. He is not an orator, scholar, nor man of genius; and he is the very worst reasoner we ever heard. But he is lively—says strange, odd, daring things, which keep the attention brisk, amuse the hearers, and give them something to talk about. Some have compared him to a great preacher of the last century, and say that he is "a second Whitfield;" but this is rubbish. Whitfield was a fervid orator, a man of genius, a scholar, and a polished gentleman; but Mr. Spurgeon is neither of these. This is, in our view, one great cause of his popularity; and this view is confirmed by observing who they are that form the staple of his congregations. Whitfield and Wesley gathered together thousands who never were accustomed to go to chapel or church—miners, sailors, craftsmen, and labourers of all sorts. But it is not so with Mr. Spurgeon. His congregations are made up, not of those "outcasts" who "go nowhere," but of the middle-class regular chapel-goers, who, wearied with the dullness of their own places of worship, come here for excitement. Outside of the "religious world," Mr. Spurgeon has been little heard of. Even the echo of his name has not been heard in the higher classes, and amongst the lower he is quite as little known.

HIS SUCCESS.

It is true that we hear much of his success, but we must take all that we hear *cum grano salis* at present. If he has made the drunkard sober, debauchees chaste, or rogues honest, then he has been successful; but if he has only increased the number of fierce and intolerant belligerents for a creed, they had better been as they were. "They're worse for mending." We have too many of them already.

WILL HIS POPULARITY LAST?

We more than doubt it. It stands on no firm basis. Thousands who go now to hear him only go through curiosity. Men are very much like sheep; one goes through a hedge, then another, and another; at last the stream gathers *crescit eundo*, and the whole flock rushes madly forward. This has been a good deal the case with Mr. Spurgeon's congregation, but the current will soon turn and leave him; and to those who have gone from a slightly different, if not better motive, it is hardly likely that he will retain them long. He must bid high if he does—offering them every Sunday a stronger dram than they had the last. Some short time back we went to see the hippopotamus in the Regent's Park, and there we moralised upon the vanity of popular favour. When the poor brute first came to the Gardens, thousands rushed to see him, and for the convenience of the crowd seats, rising one above another, were erected; but now all this is past and gone. The reason is—there really was nothing specially attractive in the poor brute. His neighbour the giraffe was infinitely more graceful—the elephant was far more clever, and in his own element the otter and seal were much more agile and interesting; but he was strange, odd-looking, and novel; and so crowds and crowds hurried to see him, and for a time he was simply the most popular animal in all London. But, of course, this novelty soon wore away, his appearance became as familiar as the street monkeys, and as he had no new tricks to offer, his popularity rapidly declined. Now, Mr. Spurgeon is the hippopotamus of the religious world—there have been and are many preachers far superior to him in every respect, but he is at present strange, odd, something new.

HIS APPEARANCE, MANNERS, STYLE, &c.

We had intended to give a description of Mr. Spurgeon's personal appearance, but there is no occasion, as the portrait from Cox's photograph will do that better than we can by words. Suffice it to say, that there is nothing about his head that indicates intellectual power, but everything to justify the opinion that we have formed after having heard him preach several times and read some dozen of his sermons. In all his productions there is one decidedly and unmistakable proof that the author is not a man of an enlarged and cultivated mind. The audacious presumption with which he dogmatizes on the profoundest mysteries, "rushing in where angels fear to tread," is quite decisive on that point. Every great man is reverent and modest in the presence of great mysteries; but Mr. Spurgeon, on subjects that have perplexed and wearied the greatest thinkers



THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

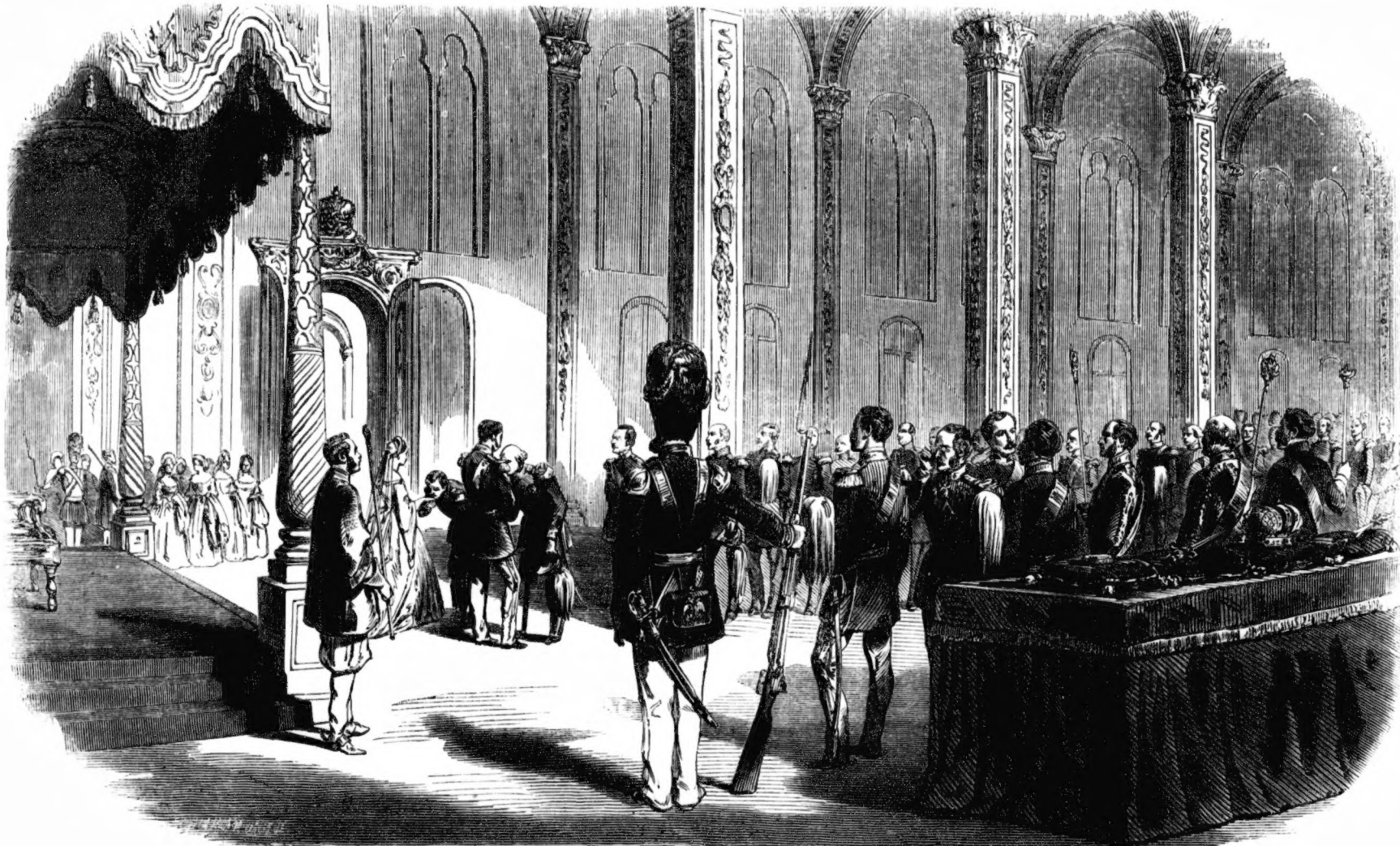
(COPIED BY PERMISSION FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY COX, OF REGENT STREET.)

of all time, never doubts, never hesitates, nor even condescends to reason. "I am not here to argue," we heard him say, "but to proclaim the truth," that "truth" involving such questions as "fate, fore-knowledge, and free will." As if he should say, "I am Sir Oracle; when I open my mouth, let no dog bark."

Nor does he hesitate what to do with his opponents. He consigns them to perdition without mercy. "Arminianism," the creed of Wesley, and a whole host of pious and learned men, "will sink back to its birth-place in the pit." And in one of his sermons he draws a picture of a whole parish howling after a picture of a poor parson in hell because he had preached the efficacy of good works. "You advised me," he makes one of the parishioners say, "to do such and such good works. I went and did them, and I am damned."

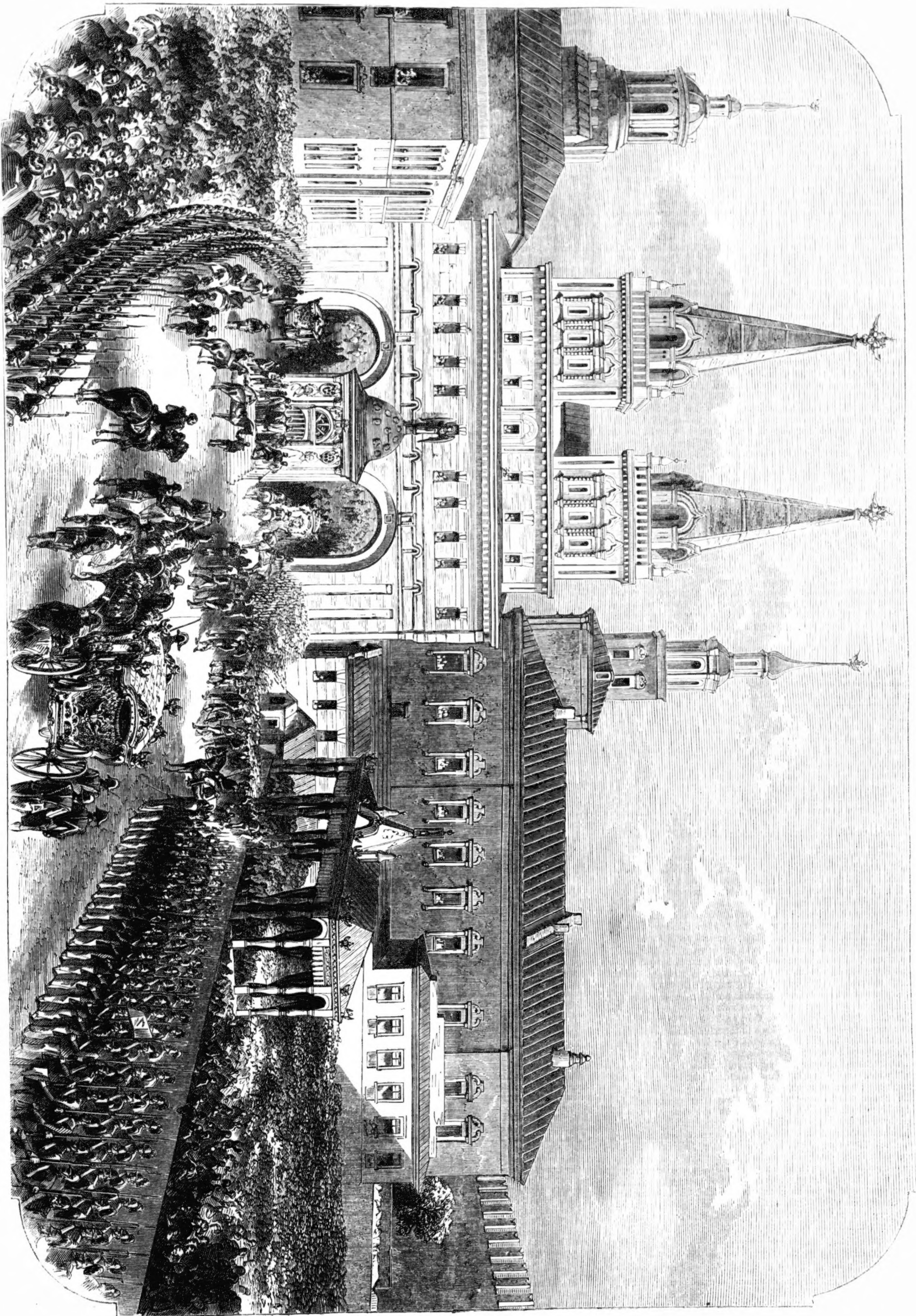
Mr. Spurgeon's manner in the pulpit is not to be commended. His manner of praying is to our mind shocking. Most ministers when they pray, kneel down and cover their faces; but Mr. Spurgeon stands up, stretches his hands out above his head, and fixing his eyes upon the ceiling, as if he saw some one up there to whom he was speaking, hallooos at the top of his voice in the most irreverent and familiar manner. That this is all affectation we cannot doubt for a moment, for it is quite impossible to suppose that a man's devotional feelings would impel him to assume this ridiculous attitude. Mr. Spurgeon's prayers are to us the most offensive part of the service. "Fantastic tricks" in speaking we can forgive—but "fantastic tricks before high Heaven" in prayer!! Of his manner when preaching there is little to be said; there is the usual amount of gesticulation—sometimes appropriate, and oftentimes not.

His sermons sometimes remind us of "Billy Dawson," the noted Methodist Yorkshire farmer, and sometimes of William Huntington, the famous antinomian; but he is not equal to either of them in natural ability. The chief characteristic of his preaching, and that which alone makes it attractive, is his coarse, vulgar metaphors. A little while ago, in addressing certain imaginary persons, who affected to think that they could give but little light in the world, he told them "that God would stick them in a saveall, for He loved to burn up His small pieces of candle." Sometimes he attempts the dramatic style, introducing upon the stage God, Jesus, Gabriel, and himself. Now and then he says a good thing, and displays a touch of humour. For example, in a printed sermon, he says, "There are some who find unnecessary and absurd fault with the things of this world, and call jewels 'gaudy toys,' and gold 'sordid dust.' I have often admired some of my friends when I have heard them talking about gold as 'sordid dust,' for I have wondered why they did not give it to the dustman the next time he came round. If they were to do that, I would not mind going round myself for once with the bell." But we must stop—we have said enough. There is one excuse for Mr. Spurgeon: he is very young—only twenty-two. When he shall be a few years older, he will probably learn that "there are more things in heaven and earth than were dreamt of in his philosophy," and be less dogmatic and bigoted; and if we mistake not, will wish that much of his earlier career and strange utterances may be forgotten; especially if he should be made to feel, as he will be, the fickleness of human applause.



THE CZAR RECEIVING THE DEPUTATIONS OF THE ARMY IN THE THRONE-ROOM OF THE KREMLIN.

THE CZARS ENTRY INTO MOSCOW—THE IMPERIAL PROCESSION ENTERING THE KREMLIN THROUGH THE GATEWAY OF THE RESURRECTION.



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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1856.

DRUNKENNESS AND COERCION.

A MODERN writer has prophesied that "the printing press will never beat the wine-press;" and considering how ill teetotalism succeeds, there seems some ground for his remark. There has been a recent joust between Lord Stanley and Mr. Pope, the secretary to the United Kingdom Alliance—a society which has for its object the suppression of the liquor traffic—in which Lord Stanley tilted as prettily as ever any of the old Stanleys did with a lance. This discussion has once more renewed the subject of drinking; and as the "Illustrated Times" has not investigated it heretofore, we feel bound to give it a few words.

There is no doubt that when a man comes forward to urge that all drinking should be stopped, the *onus* of proof devolves on him. He who drinks has authority and precedent in his favour; he is not bound to say why he drinks. The wine of the ancients, the beer of Luther, the traditions of Europe from the earliest period, are all in his favour. If he is a drunkard, indeed, that is a new element in the discussion; but, of course, some drinkers are drunkards—as a great many sailors are drowned. You are bound to prove to him that drunkenness has so increased, that the sober man must submit to be deprived of his liquor for the sake of the rest. Whereupon he will retort—why not inconvenience the honest man for the sake of the convict, or take any other such step? By what right do you punish the immense mass, who require a stimulant, for the sake of the minority, who turn out toppers?

Now, as to the need of a stimulant, the private individual is the best judge of that. Perhaps Mr. Pope does not require one, but perhaps the gentleman next door to Mr. P. does. No doubt, it must vex Mr. Pope to see a basket of bottles, neatly glittering with green or yellow seals, arriving at his neighbour's door. But the old gentleman requires a glass of wine. He may have been employed all day in collating MSS. of St. Augustine, or evolving a Scotch pedigree out of the "retours" and "precepts of *claire constat*," of the McClises of Balmagoul. He is sensible of a certain depression towards six, and a glass or two of good sherry gives a fillip to his whole being, and penetrates him like a fine Prometheus fire. You must have some immensely strong reasons before you deprive this veteran of his refreshment—one which he only takes in common with all the wisest old gentlemen in Europe—the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the President of the Royal Society, the best Greek scholar, the Count de Chambord, and goodness knows who.

Drunkenness, they tell us, is on the increase, and requires vigorous measures. We are sorry to hear it; but it would be vain to disguise the fact, that a certain amount of intoxication has always prevailed among our Northern ancestors. According to Tacitus, the Germans discussed every measure of state once while they were drunk, and once while they were sober. It is partly the climate that does it. Our foggy days, our raw nights, oppress the human animal, and drive him to seek a relief. The Scotch drink a good deal; so do the Swedes. Besides the climate, there is the hard work and the temperament of the people, which needs enlivening. With history, climate, and character pulling one way, you can do little by Acts of Parliament. In fact, *excitement* is a need of man's, which in all times has made itself felt,—which drives the Easterns to opium and hashesh, the Spanish to a bull-fight, and which is the secret of the success of spirit-rapping as much as of spirit-drinking. Civilization, we are now learning, is in some ways a duller thing than "barbarism;" and the poor have just lost the attractions of old times without getting the benefits of the new. Cock-fighting, bear-baiting, Maypoles, archery, boxing, are all gone. They feel that moral and mental vacuum which is more wearying than pain, and a few pence spent in a tavern breaks its monotony. Drunkenness is the abuse of this habit of consolation, and an abuse which no sensible man pretends to defend.

To stop all drinking by law would at once turn the sober part of the community into sympathisers with toppers. It would become constitutional to get drunk. British liberty would be mixed up with potation. Politicians would court the people through it, and Sir Benjamin Hall would be carried home periodically. Coercion in the matter has been tried before. It was tried, when gin became common, early in the last century, and the London mob tossed every official who meddled in a blanket. No Government can do these kind of things. The Sultans once wanted to put down coffee, and failed ignominiously. You can do most things with seamen, but you cannot get seamen to do without a pipe. There is a certain need of excitement (we repeat) in the very nature of man, which you may perhaps regulate or divert; but you cannot forcibly dam up a particular manifestation of it without providing a substitute.

The substitute is hard enough to find, we know. We should like to see cheap wine—an immense boon to the middle classes—though we doubt whether it would do as much for the lower as some think. We have always advocated public amusements, book-clubs, &c., of course. Theatres, music halls, newspapers, are all little "diversions," which modify the tendency to drink; but he who gives a workman the chance of bettering his position, supplies him with a motive to steadiness far more potent than any other merely worldly one can be. Great part of the intoxication of the poor is probably caused by their seeking a set-off against the consciousness that not one in a hundred thousand of them can ever rise above being a hewer of wood and drawer of water. It may be said that *this* is a perennial state of things; but there is a peculiarly modern kind of discontent, which did not exist in such bitterness in old days—we mean that, under the régime of Money, the superiority of those who hold the governing positions is not so cheerfully admitted. Drunkenness is one of the dangers of the time, but he who attacks it by force, without changing the conditions which produce it, will cause mischiefs which every sensible man will heartily regret.

POISON.

THE wearisome length of time that generally elapses in this country before a public and patent nuisance, denounced over and over again in the columns of a free press, and from which every fragment of defence or excuse has been torn, is redressed, must lead foreigners to entertain some slight suspicion that we are a nation of grievance-mongers. We seem, while vehemently combating a wrong, still to cherish and cling to some-

what as if it were bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh; and as if, like an outraged but still affectionate parent, we hesitated to turn our ne'er-do-well out of doors, though it were madness to entertain the slightest hope of his reformation.

The flourishing existence of abuses among us, long since exposed, arraigned, and given up to public scorn and indignation, seems almost a satire upon this same free press of ours, so powerful in denunciation, so tardy in repression. How many years have we been fulminating against the Court of Chancery, from its humblest process-server to the Lord High Chancellor himself, and what a halfpenny worth of reforms we have got after all, to the intolerable deal of indignation! How many years was the Hospital of St. Cross a standing shame, and yet how long did its corruption-eaten wall stand out against the heavy artillery of the press! There is the King of Naples, too (though no home nuisance), that acknowledged pest to the most beautiful country in the world. Mr. Gladstone withered and exploded him root and branch, now nearly half-a-dozen years ago. The "Times" had leaders about him enough to crush half-a-dozen kings; yet King Bomba lives, "a prosperous gentleman;" and for all the genteel remonstrances of officious Austria, and even the stronger persuasions of allied water-parties, will continue, we are afraid, to live, and reign, and prosper long enough to inflict more torture and spill more blood. To revert to home affairs, there are but two instances we can remember in which the exposure of a nuisance has been followed by its immediate suppression. The first was in the notable case of "chaff-wax," at the Patent Office, who was melted by the scorching ridicule of Mr. Dickens, in two articles in "Household Words." The second was in the instance of the Palace Court, where a letter and a leader in the "Times," and Mr. Thackeray's immortal ballad of "Jacob Omniumhoss," in "Punch," were found sufficient to demolish that disreputable tribunal in an incredibly short space of time.

Few persons will deny that the unrestricted sale of deadly poisons, and that which is almost as bad, the gross carelessness and ignorance of the persons who dispense such poisons, are two of the most crying evils of the present day. The columns of the newspapers have overflowed with reports of cases, in which almost premiums seem to have been held out to suicide; in which apprentices have sold death draughts for harmless aperients; in which murderers have been able to obtain their tools without let or hindrance. As a last act to this frightful drama, we hear of a chemist who is unable to attend to his business, owing to the trifling impediment of *delirium tremens*, and who leaves the drug trade in the hands of his wife, a young woman of twenty, who, we presume in a slackness of opportunities for poisoning other people, takes it into her head to poison herself, and in a fit of hypochondria, aided by "heavy drinking," swallows enough opium to kill half a dozen people.

These horrors have been so fully recapitulated by our contemporaries—the columns of the press have so rung with indignant comments upon the supine neglect of those whose business it is either to make the laws or to see them executed—that it would be a work of supererogation to insist upon the necessity of this evil being remedied. And the remedy itself is so obvious; it would be so easy a matter to stop the unrestricted sale of poison—first, by rendering it *penal* in the druggist to sell poisons without an *ordonnance du médecin* or physician's prescription, or, in the case of useful drugs, such as opium, by the person demanding them being accompanied by two respectable witnesses; and next, by it being made equally penal for the druggist to send out any poisonous mixtures without their being duly labelled as such; and lastly, by allowing no persons under the age of twenty-one to serve poisons in a shop at all; that we have no doubt a snug legislative enactment is in preparation on the subject, and that it will be snored through, or laughed out of the House of Commons, or quietly disposed of at the general massacre of the innocents, at the end of the session before next August. Any one of these penal enactments would stop the evil. If A. B. wanted to commit suicide, he would scarcely find a C. D. or E. F. to accompany him to the chemist's shop to purchase his *quintessence*, unless, indeed, C. D. or his brother initials held a policy of insurance on A. B.'s life; but we will not, for the honour of human nature, entertain that theory. The nuisance could be abated in a week. It requires no more ventilation. It has been tried, and weighed, and sifted; yet we cannot refrain from entertaining a desponding doubt of its being forthwith knocked on the head. We have no doubt that the thing will be gravely discussed in the Great Palaver House of this empire; that the sages will wag their beards at the council fire; that the young warriors will come in their war-paint, and joke about it; that the medicine-men will have their say, and the ancient squaws (in the Upper Wigwam) theirs; and that there will be a deplorable amount of talk, whooping, burying and disinterring hatchets, and smoking pipes of peace, before this shameful and murderous state of things is abolished at once and for ever. That such a pestilence as this should walk the streets at noon-day, is enough to make an Englishman blush at the name of his boasted liberties—at the memory of the freedom of his press—at the vaunt of the advanced civilisation of his country. It is enough almost to make the most ardent lover of liberty sigh for one hour of Mr. Baron Bramwell's suppositions "Despot," who would stop the plague of poisoning with one stroke of his pen, and who would have sense enough to say, "My people shall not die, 'like poisoned rats in holes,' while I have the means of prevention, and am determined to use them."

THE MERCENARY MARKET.

THERE are eighteen or twenty-five ways of dressing a cucumber—we forget how many; but when the most elaborate stage of preparation has been attained, the culinary canon laid down is, that you are to throw your cucumber away. We seem to be adopting somewhat a similar recipe with regard to the German Legion. The Legionaries have given us an enormity of trouble; and we have dressed and drilled, and flogged, and *not* paid them (so they complain), in goodness knows how many ways; and now, just as they are becoming serviceable—in the first flush of an April-sunshine peace—we throw our cucumber away and disband them. We offer them, to be sure, a species of genteel transportation to the Cape, of which the Legionaries do not seem by any means eager to avail themselves—coupling with it the inestimable benefit of a free passage to Caffreland for their wives (from whom many of the gallant fellows have probably run away) and their *sweethearts*, whom—if the per centage of Dulcinea per Legionary we saw at Shorncliffe is to be taken as a criterion—it would require a fleet of transports as large as the Spanish Armada to convey to their destination. In the meantime the agents of the forsaken despots have been making the most flattering overtures to these discarded Free Lances. The King of Naples offers unlimited maccaroni, and all the delights of Capri and Gaeta; the Pope promises his blessing and the best of brigand-shooting; and even stately France, with her prodigious army, does not disdain to whisper that she has a Foreign Legion in Algeria, in which there is an excellent opening "for smart young men," and in which references to character are *not* required. It is not at all unlikely, if the sunshine be succeeded by a shower, that our Guards will have to cross bayonets with some of our former mercenaries. Of course, it is urged, and justly, the army must be reduced: of course the Foreign Legions, being only embodied for a temporary purpose, and that purpose not having been served, must be sent about their business. Of course this is number one of Mr. Tennyson's promised "thousand years of peace," rung in by the Congress of Paris; but what if number one should not be succeeded by number two, but by number one of the thousand years of war? Are we not a little too sanguine, a little too confiding, a little too rash, in so suddenly scattering to the winds a numerous body of highly-trained soldiers, who—valuable auxiliaries in time of war—we could surely turn to some useful account in time of peace? The French are copying fresh things from us every day; could we not, while abstaining from servile imitation, remember what good service the Foreign Legion did, ay, and in the face of a military establishment of 400,000? Surely our empire is vast enough for us to find ample employment for the *condottieri* who might choose to remain under our banners. Surely there would be no jealousy as to the employment of foreigners in a nation which maintains regiments of Dutch Rifle-men, Maltese Fencibles, Negro Grenadiers, and a whole army of Hindoos, Mahometans, and Parsees. In the next war, when we have to begin dressing our cucumber *de novo* we shall perhaps be wiser.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE REV. RICHARD CHIFFENIX TRENCH has been appointed to the Denary of Westminster, vacant by the decease of Dr. Buckland.

LORD BROUGHAM has entertained 800 men of the Royal Wilt Militia Regiment with roast beef and plum pudding.

THE BIRKENHEAD DOCK WORKS are to be extended by deepening the great pool at Wallasey.

THE CUTTING of the first sod of the South Devon and Tavistock Railway was performed last week. The line starts from the South Devon near Plymouth.

JUDGE HALIBURTON (Sam Slick) has taken farewell of Nova Scotia, and intends spending the remainder of his days in England.

PORTSMOUTH AND LANGSTON HARBOURS are to be joined by a canal, 250 feet wide, and thirteen feet nine inches deep. Further schemes are likely to be carried out to render Portsmouth impregnable.

MR. JAMES WORLEY, collector of the property and income-tax at Dudley, has disappeared, a defaulter to the amount of £2,000.

A SENSIBLE TESTIMONIAL to HANDEL is projected in Germany, to be ready against the anniversary of 1859. The testimonial is to be an edition of the entire works of the master, so cheap as to be within reach of the poorest musical student.

HERR ERNST is expected within the next fortnight, we imagine to pass the winter in England.

THE PORTUGUESE MINISTER has suspended the consul of that country at Baltimore for complicity in the slave trade. The partner in business with the Portuguese consul, in New York, has also been indicted. This consul is the Minister's son.

MR. CARLYLE has been relaxing from his literary labours in the Highlands. He was last week on a visit at Kinlochhuitchart, the shooting lodge of Lord Ansbarton, in Ross-shire.

THE RUSSIANS at SEBASTOPOL celebrated with much pomp, on the 11th of August, the inauguration of a monument erected upon the tomb of N. Khorvat, Korniloff, and Istomine.

GOVERNMENT INTENDS, during the next session of Parliament, to introduce an act to allow a soldier of the Royal Marines to claim a pension at the completion of twenty-one, instead, as at present, of twenty-four years' service.

M. MEYERBEER has composed a new "Cantata" for the Royal nuptials which have just taken place at the Court of Prussia.

PRINCE WILLIAM OF MECKLENBURG, otherwise Prince Schnaps, has forsaken his fatherland, and is now in England under the title of Baron de Grabau. His career having ended in Europe, at least for the time, he is about to go to the Brazils.

THE QUEEN'S PHYSICIAN, SIR HENRY HOLLAND, who went to Canada in the *Camelia*, is deputed (they say in the Colony), to see if the climate will permit her Majesty to visit Canada in safety.

MR. SCOTT AND MR. SERGEANT BRILLASIS are to receive five per cent. on the rents of the Shrewsbury estates during their administration.

PRESENTS FROM THE KING OF SIAM TO QUEEN VICTORIA are on their way. Amongst them is an elephant of remarkable colour, which will probably cause some little excitement in England on its arrival.

A LITTLE GIRL, of Bristol, was missed by its parents, and was supposed to have been drowned. An alarm was given, the river was dragged, and the body, not being found, the friends of the disconsolate mother commenced to console her. The child all this time was standing among the watching crowd.

THE OLYMPIC THEATRE will be re-opened by Mr. Wigan on Monday next.

THE EMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS have advertised for vessels to carry out emigrants to Sydney and Geelong, to be ready for passengers between the 1st and 24th of November, as may be hereafter fixed by the Commissioners.

KING PEPPE, ex-King of Bonny, was baptized on Friday week in London. He is said to be a tall, intelligent-looking negro, and was born in August, 1817.

THE VICEROY OF EGYPT is at Cairo, pressing the completion of the railway from that city to Suez, of which eighteen miles are finished. He is further occupied with the establishment of an efficient police force, on the system organized in our Indian possessions.

AN EXPERIMENTAL MORTAR, after undergoing most severe tests at Fort Cumberland, near Portsmouth, burst at last on Thursday week, after firing 1,500 13-inch shells, with an average charge of 20lbs. of powder. The total expenditure of powder in the trials was fourteen tons.

THE "LIBERTY AND PROPERTY," one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, vessel in the merchant service, has been totally wrecked on the Isle of Galloway. The old ship was built at Whitby, in 1750.

TWO GALLEY SLAVES at GENOA conceived a mortal hatred for another convict, who had been rewarded for good behaviour. They armed themselves with two sharpened nails, with which they stabbed him to the heart. One of the murderers was immediately arrested; the other had to be killed, he fought so desperately.

ALDERMAN KENNEDY AND MR. J. F. LAW are threatened with the Bankruptcy Court, on an alleged claim of £4,000 and interest on the part of the Newcastle Banking Company; there is a question of liability.

THE ARCHDUKE ALBERT met with an accident last week, at the camp of Biranberg. His carriage was upset, and the Prince received some slight contusions.

GENERAL COUNT DE LEININGEN died last week at Cracow.

AT THE RECENT IMPERIAL BULL FIGHT at BAYONNE, one of the performers was very badly hurt; but he would not retire, even when desired by the Emperor—he would kill the bull, or the bull should kill him, he said. He did kill the bull, and had then to be taken to the hospital.

MR. BURCHAM, examiner in classics at the London University and Recorder of Bedford, has been appointed to the Metropolitan Police Magistracy, in place of the late Mr. A'Beckett.

THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM COMPANY has issued a circular to their shareholders, proposing to establish the long desired connection between Sydney and Panama. They recommend a fleet of auxiliary screw steamers: the capital necessary is £400,000.

THE LOSS OF THE WEST INDIA MAIL STEAMER TAY, near Lopez Island, on the 30th of August, is announced. The passengers, crew, and mail were rescued. The Tay is the third steamer belonging to the Royal Mail Company that has been lost in the Gulf of Mexico, the Forth and Tweed having been wrecked on the Alicane Rocks in the Gulf some years since.

THE FIRST DIVISION OF GUN-BOATS at SHEERNESS in the steam reserve, under charge of Lieutenant Frederick Pyne, is ordered to be prepared immediately for active service, for employ in the Coast Guard.

THE STATUE OF CHARLES JAMES FOX, by Mr. Baily, R.A., has been added to the Gallery of illustrious Statesmen in the Palace of Westminster. The likeness is good, and the figure massive and dignified.

A NEARLY TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON will occur on Monday next, the 13th inst. It will commence at twenty-one minutes past nine p.m., and end at twenty seven minutes past midnight. It will be visible at Greenwich.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN £10,800 for Middlechurch Farm, near Colchester, (says the "Essex Gazette"), for the purpose of converting it into a military parade ground.

THE FRENCH CONSUL at CALCUTTA has remitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs a sum of 33,000*fr.*, being part of the result of a subscription opened in that city for the sufferers by the inundations.

A FEW OPENERS IN THE REV. MR. HALEY'S CHURCH, Alton, at Illinois, offers to bet his pew, slightly situated, and valued at 100 dollars, against a pew in the Rev. Mr. Norton's church, on the result of the general election in November.

THE CONGREGATION OF THE INDEX, at Rome, has published a fresh batch of prohibited books, amongst which we find "John Stuart Mill's Principles of Political Economy."

THE REDOUBT AT FRESHWATER GATE CLIFF, in the Isle of Wight, for protecting the fortifications on the eastern side of the Solent, is now completed, and is manned by between sixty and seventy artillerymen.

SLIPS OF EARTH into the principal crater of Vesuvius have been taking place for some time past. It is feared that the entire summit of the mountain will disappear in the open chasm. Violent and continual reports have of late proceeded from the volcano.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES has been making a tour through the south coast.

A NORWICH SOLICITOR has lately fled the city, leaving behind him liabilities, principally in the shape of bills, to the amount of £2,000.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA has just founded a military college, for the instruction of young officers. The instruction consists of mathematics, drawing of plans, the principles of the military art, and the French language; for, strange to say, all the words of command are given in French.

PEEL PARK, BRADFORD, has been purchased by subscription. Mr. Titus Salt, and the firm of Milligan, Forbes, and Co., each contributed £1,000, and Alderman Rand, £250.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL AND HIS FAMILY have arrived at Turin.

MR. HANNAY'S "Eustace Conyers" has appeared in a German translation. The "New Prussian Gazette," and other leading journals, praise it highly.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

People are rapidly coming back to town; window shutters, which for the last two months have been hermetically sealed, are unfastening; the inside sheets of the "Morning Post," are being taken off the blinds, and the dull rumble of carriages is beginning to be heard in the streets branching from Piccadilly; and yet the dearth of news is excessive. It is lamentable to perceive the efforts that are made by the "leading journal" to fill its columns. A few days ago, a letter written by one "Narciso" afforded opportunity for a leader on the manners and customs of the "Jolly Beggars" in Dublin thirty years ago; a subject, of course, not with interest for an English audience of the present day; and yet that we have had a most tremendous tirade, to the effect that we are sick of the repeated ascent of Mont Blanc. Heaven knows we are; what has sickened us? The repeated letters in the "Times," which that journal has been too good to insert, with the unartistic description of the route from *pass to plateau*; either by the raw university men, or enthusiastic stockbrokers, who have performed this feat. Without the aid of the "Times" we should never have been made acquainted with their daring deeds, and this respectable journal now turns round and castigates the very persons to whose effusions they have been indebted for the filling of much vacant space. Your Brussels correspondent said a true word in last other day, when he spoke of the Warringtons, Shandons, and Penderis being absent from Printing-house Square, and the reins of office having fallen into the hands of Mr. Finucane. Mr. Delancey, in point of fact, now on his voyage to America, and his deputy is woefully deficient in the *survival* of editing duty. Meanwhile the letters of Mr. Russell continue to be the most valuable feature of the paper, it, by the way, I except the contributions of a new hand, a correspondent in Algiers, who describes the true state of things in the pet French colony, with an and graphic power.

The disappearance of Mr. Robson, the "transfer clerk" of the Crystal Palace Company, under most suspicious circumstances—so suspicious, indeed, that a large reward is offered for his apprehension on a charge of felony—is exciting a good deal of attention. The most extraordinary part of the affair appears to be that Mr. Robson was allowed to carry on his game for such a length of time, without the interference of any of the directors. That something was wrong in the state of affairs must have been palpable; for here was a man in receipt of a salary of £200 a year, and without any other visible means of subsistence, who lived *en prince*, keeping six horses and three carriages, an elegant house and retinue, and "as time" all his luxury in the face of the very people to whom he was a salaried clerk. Mr. Robson was the reputed author of a play called "Love and Loyalty" (since said to have been bought by him for a consideration from the author), and was mixed up to a considerable extent in theatrical matters, being more especially versed in the *penetration* of Drury Lane, and the mysteries of its management. In default of higher game to fly at, an erudite writer in the "Morning Post" has been exposing to the public gaze the private history of the missing clerk, and the article is worth reading, merely as a specimen of literary composition. We are told of Mr. Robson "taking under protection Miss B.," and are treated to choice details of the presents which he made to this lady—amongst others "an elegant dressing case, furnished with silver, which cost the trifling sum of £37." Further *minutiae*, evidently gathered from the servants, are given by the venacious reporter, who writes in a very high-down style, until at length, his literary genius suddenly forsaking him, the true Jenkins spirit bursts forth, and he winds up a paragraph with the following delicious sentence:—"The bubble burst, and he was obliged to cut." The ladies are my own. Can bathos have a greater depth?

My prognostications relative to the early publication of Mr. G. A. Sala's "Russian Experiences" proved correct; last week's number of "Household Words" containing the first paper descriptive of his journey through Belgium and Prussia, his halt at Berlin, his long delay there, his visit to Stettin, and subsequent departure in the *Precisioher Adler* for St. Petersburg. His paper should be read by everyone, though to those who understand Continental travelling, it will be doubly interesting; it is written throughout in the highest spirit, and with that extraordinary attention to detail, and power of reproducing apparently trivial occurrences, which have always marked Mr. Sala's articles.

Mr. Balfe, without question the most eminent English composer of the day, but who has been made to feel the truth of the proverb, as to no man being a prophet in his own country, has, I believe, some intention of settling in Paris, where the managers both of the Opéra Comique and the Théâtre Lyrique, are perfectly ready to receive him with open arms. It always has been said, to our shame, that we don't encourage "native talent," but when we recollect what wretched imposters have been thrust down our throats under that appellation, we cannot wonder at the result. In the case of Mr. Balfe, however, there can be no doubt of his talent and capacity for work, nor of the punctuality and correctness with which all his engagements are fulfilled.

Rachel has not yet forgotten or forgiven the Ristori triumph. She is also far from well, and has reached Marseilles on her way to Alexandria and Cairo, cities which she contemplates visiting.

Your readers will be sorry to hear that Mr. Jerrold has been a considerable loser by the failure of the Royal British Bank.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES—SECOND NOTICE.

It is indeed but seldom that, with every desire to perform my duties conscientiously, I can bring myself to read "Bentley," but when I do, the source of its fallen fortunes, and of its present extremely limited circulation, is at once apparent. It is hopelessly, irretrievably dull. While the other periodicals of the day are availing themselves of the abilities of scores of young men who have risen within the last few years, and who are perpetually rising, the pages of "Bentley" are still filled with several stories from pens which never were amusing, and have long ceased to be popular, and with essays and little scraps of verse from amateur writers—contributions which are received and inserted simply because they are offered *gratis*, and because a certain number of pages must be given every month. The number for October opens with an account of a journey "From Stamboul to Pesth," would-be-facetious, but really dull in the extreme; then comes the conclusion (thank goodness!) of "The Joint-Stock Banker," a story by that brilliant wit Mr. Dudley Costello, which he calls "a tale of the day"—meaning thereby that he has, with the nicest taste and most accurate judgment, taken the Sadler crimes and suicide for his principal incidents, and surrounded them with a little scaffolding of sentimental love-making and dreary joke. Large quotations from Mr. Metcalf's "Oxonian in Norway," interspersed with little threads of three lines of original matter, make up half a dozen more pages, and then comes a thoroughly "Bentleyan" tale without either point, interest, or object, called "The Young Clergyman and his Anti-Macassars," in which the narrator, the sister of a clergyman, and evidently intended for a very well educated young lady, is made to say, "What a many bonnets!" and when asked if she had seen some handkerchiefs, to reply, "What shall bring me with them?" with many other little elegancies of a similar nature. There is then the thirty-ninth chapter of Mr. Ainsworth's new novel "The Spendthrift," of which, I am proud to say, I have not read one word; and by far the best paper in the number a pleasant gossip on "Letter-writing and Letter-writers," by Monkshood.

Nor is there much more information or amusement to be obtained from the "New Monthly," which enjoys the advantage of Mr. Ainsworth's special editorial superintendence. It is a little better than "Bentley," but then it is a shilling dearer. The wonder to my mind is, who the people can be who purchase either of these repertoires of dulness, for the respective prices of three-and-sixpence and half-a-crown. After looking carefully through the "New Monthly," there is nothing of sufficient interest to retain the slightest hold on the memory; and as we lay down the magazine, the names of the articles and their writers pass at once away from us. In the new number there is an average paper on Sir Robert Walpole, well compiled and thickly-studded with quotations, but telling us nothing which Mr. Macaulay and others had not told us before, except the opinion of Mr. Philarcète Châles, which we did not particularly care

about knowing. There is a opening chapter of a story called "The Delayed Will," which is not particularly promising; and two chapters of a new tale called "The Talker and the Worker," by Mr. J. E. Carpenter, which do not possess the smallest interest. There is a ballad, too, by the would have been a disgrace to the Editor of the "Family Herald." In a paper called "Two Days at Stuttgart," we gain the following important information:—"Among the numbers present was the poet Uhland. I had once inquired, from a German friend, as to the great lyricist's personal appearance, and was told I had only to look in the glass. There was certainly some resemblance, which sufficiently proved that there was no superfluous amount of beauty in either." This paper is by "An Old Traveller," and as of course every body knows who he is, and has seen him, we can all at once picture to ourselves the appearance of the "Great Lyrist." Other papers are reviews of Colonel Chesterton's "Revelations of Prison Life," very liberally quoted from; and Mr. Ferguson's "Northmen in Cumberland and Westmoreland;" a miserable attempt at an historical ballad, called "Tontin Field," by James Fyfe; a continuation of the "History of the Newspaper Press," which is certainly well done; and of "Information Relative to Josiah Tubbs," in which the writer is apparently experimenting as to how much rapid buffoonery can be endured by the reading (or rather in this case the non-reading) public.

The "Dublin University" is scarcely so good as usual this month. It contains the conclusion of the tale which for some months has been running in its pages, "The Daragh;" a good and kind article on Lamarine in his position as *homme de lettres* rather than *homme d'état*, with some feeling allusions to the services he has rendered to French literature, and to his present poverty-stricken condition; a continuation of the "Fortunes of Ginepro;" and an article, called "Poetry, Good, Bad, and Indifferent," in which the Rev. Archer Gurney comes in for an undue meed of praise, while Miss Phillips and other minor versifiers are somewhat severely criticised.

Nor is the new number of "Tait" up to the usual standard of excellence. It contains several heavy articles on what are supposed to be popular subjects, such as "London Joint-stock Banks," with a review of the Lawley, Sadler, and British Bank delinquencies; the "Constitution of Norway;" the "Supreme Court of Appeal and Peers for Life;" and the "Profit and Loss of Insurance Companies;" but they are written in a heavy manner, and seem fitted for a periodical more thoroughly and essentially commercial in its character than "Tait" is generally imagined to be. There is also a laudatory review of Mrs. Stowe's "Dred," and some very mediocre poetry and blank verse is scattered throughout the number.

I had not before seen the "London University Magazine," and in truth I don't care if I never see it again. Three out of its six articles, "Constitutionalism in Spain," "The Plea of Insanity," and the "Dramatists of the Elizabethan Era," are of the chip-in-the-porridge kind, with *rechauffés* of current works, newspaper articles, and blue books. In a paper called "Modern French Literature," however, the writer gives vent to much strong morality, deploring the present lax state of literature in France, and inveighing with bitterness against the Emperor and all his acts and deeds. Throughout the article, too, there is a strong dash of that virtuous spirit, the utterance of which so delights the Victoria galleries. Take the following as a specimen:—

"The language we have used respecting the present Government in France may possibly give some offence; the writers in this journal will not, however, shrink from holding up immorality and vice to scorn and abhorrence, whether they find it in the person of a vulgar convict, arrayed in a suit of prison garb, or whether it is ennobled with pomp, is seated in high places, is clothed in purple, and is called an Emperor."

Before me lies the first number of a new literary venture, called "The Commercial Travellers' Magazine," for which, taking all things into consideration, I am inclined to prophesy a success. The class to which it is addressed has plenty of money to spend, and possesses, moreover, such a thorough *esprit du corps* that I do not think they will allow anything to fail with which their name is associated. Moreover, this specimen of what is intended to be their organ is by no means unworthy of praise; it is nicely got up, neatly printed, and those articles which I have read are of more than average merit. They are principally commercial, as, for instance, on "Our Supplies of Silk," "Debtor and Creditor," "Australia and California," a review of the "Commerce of the Month," &c., &c., relieved by a few papers of a lighter nature, of which a "Household Word"-like description of Boulogne marketing, and an Ingoldsbyan legend, "The Demon Architect," are well worthy of perusal.

None of Mr. Dickens's works have perhaps given rise to such conflicting opinions as the present "Little Dorrit." Let the detractors read the description of the Great Saint Bernard Monastery, with its various accessories of character, &c., in the October number, and confess no other hand could have penned it.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

ANY person who can recollect "London Assurance" in the old days of Covent Garden, under the management of Madame Vestris, with its unparalleled cast, including the names of the managers, Mrs. Nisbet, Messrs. Ewren, Keeley, Charles Mathews, Hatley, Anderson, &c.—any person who can recollect this, I say, had better not go to Drury Lane, and see the piece as it is at present performed. Mr. Keeley, whose performance of Dolly Spanker always struck me as being one of his very best, is the only one of the original crew, and the substitutes for the others are but poor indeed. It is a pity to see the talent of such artists as Mr. and Mrs. Keeley wasted on the wretched nonsense which is called a burlesque, and is now being played there, and which is merely a mixture of sorry rhyme and unmitigated slang. Mr. and Mrs. Keeley will leave Drury Lane for a short vacation in November, when Mr. Charles Mathews will make his re-appearance.

"Tell it not in Gath!" Her Majesty's Theatre is about to open for a couple of nights at the end of this month, with Mademoiselle Piccolomini in the "Traviata" and "Figlia del Reggimento." Shades of the frequenters of Pop's Alley, what would you say to the opera in October!

M. Julien's Promenade Concerts will be held this year in her Majesty's Theatre, during the month of November.

The melodrama of "The Flower Girl" has been revived, with great success, at the Surrey, Mr. Creswick playing the hero with much force.

A new piece is promised at the Adelphi on Monday next. It is by Messrs. Langford and Sorrell, and has excellent parts for Mr. Leigh Murray, his first appearance here for twelve months, and Miss Wyndham.

Mr. James Anderson and Miss Elsworth have been acting with success at the Standard.

The Olympic opens on Monday next.

RISTORI IN GERMANY.—Madame Ristori, who has been on a tour to Germany, is at present performing at Brussels. Her journey is described by the German papers as a succession of triumphs. At Stuttgart, the Queen of Holland invited the illustrious tragedian to a soirée intime, and paid her the most particular attentions during the entire evening. Madame Ristori promised an early visit to Holland at her Majesty's flattering request.

A MUSICAL MANIA.—A Russian Prince, who is a fanatic admirer of an instrument which has fallen into general disuse of late years—the guitar—has summoned all the guitarists of Europe to a public trial of their skill at Brussels, and has promised a gold medal to the best player, and a silver one to the second best.

MISS NIGHTINGALE AT BALMORAL.—Miss Nightingale was specially invited to be present at the ball last week, and was seated with the Royal Family and the Court circle at one end of the hall. This young lady is taller than the portraits published of her would lead one to imagine. In the severe attack of illness she suffered in the East, it was absolutely necessary to have all her hair cut off, and it is now therefore quite short; but a charming little cap makes a very graceful head-dress; and in the elegant and ladylike figure there is everything that bears out the ideal picture of the moral heroine of the Crimea which most have depicted to themselves.

FOISSART IN STONE.—A statue of Foissart has been inaugurated with much ceremony at Valenciennes, the native place of the chronicler. It is by M. Lemaire, of the Institute, the sculptor of the pediment of the Madeleine at Paris, and other great works. The likeness of the historian is taken from a miniature painted in one of his "Chroniques." A cantata was executed and sung, and speeches in honour of Foissart were delivered on the occasion.

PREMIUMS OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

THE list of subjects for premiums during the coming session, proposed by the Council of the Society of Arts, is before us, and, it will be owned, is sufficiently copious and extensive. It includes 216 desiderata,—90 of which belong to the cultivation or introduction of raw material, 64 to machinery, and the remainder to manufactures of various descriptions. It is of course impossible to specify one-twentieth of the subjects propounded, but a few extracts may be taken. Premiums are offered in Classes I. to IV. (raw material) "For an Account of the Raw Materials obtainable from different parts of the World, that are at yet generally introduced into Commerce."—"For an Essay on the Means at present in use in preserving Iron from the injurious action of water or exposure to the atmosphere; how far they are efficient as a means of preserving that material when used in connection with the Arts, in the construction of ships, or for engineering purposes."—"For a cheap substitute for Pitch, Tar, &c., equally impervious to air and moisture, but not inflammable."—"For the discovery and production of any new substance which can be successfully used as a substitute for Gutta Serena."—"For the discovery and importation of a Wood suited to the purpose of the wood engraver, and of such dimensions as to supersede the necessity of using several blocks." In Classes V. to X. (Machinery), we find, among other topics proposed, "Continental Machinery for earth-boring."—"An account of Improvements in Consuming and Preventing Smoke in certain manufactures."—"An account of Improvements in the Making of Beet-root Sugar."—"For a Machine for Composing Types, which shall obviate the objections to those already introduced;" and another for "the best and most economical Ruling Machine." In Classes XI. to XXIX.—devoted to manufactures, "textile, metallic, miscellaneous"—the Society invites contributions "On an Improved Method of Transferring the pattern from the Original Design to the Jacquard Loom;"—"On the successful Application of some New Means (as Electricity or Photography, for instance) for producing Ornamental Coloured Designs in Woven Fabrics, which shall be cheaper and easier of application than those at present employed;"—"On the Machines employed in Veneering;"—"On the Production of new Descriptions of Glass, convertible to the Agricultural Uses of the day;"—and mentions, among other subjects for essays, "The best Methods of Dendrology Seaweed;"—"The Management and Maintenance of Public Roads, with special reference to their employment and traffic in these railway days;"—"An Account of the English, Irish, and Scotch Linen Trade;"—"A Treatise on Lively Manufactures, with a view to relief of the worker." The above are extracts, taken almost at random. It may be added, that while, on the one hand, the Council points to the possibility of some of the desiderata specified having been already supplied, on the other it announces itself as open to communications on any subject of real novelty or interest within its circle of cognisance, though that may have been overlooked in drawing out the list. All home contributions (some extension of time being allowed to papers from the colonies) must be sent in before the last day of March, 1857.

SIR W. TEMPLE'S COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES.—The archaeological department of the British Museum is likely to receive a valuable addition, by the bequest of the late Sir William Temple, English Ambassador at Naples. The deceased Baronet, a man of exquisite taste and knowledge of the fine arts, for a long series of years bestowed much time and expense on the formation of a collection illustrative of classical antiquity, for which his liberal residence at Naples afforded him ample opportunity. No catalogue has been printed, but we believe we shall not err in asserting that the staple of the collection consists of fictile vases, bronzes, mosaics, and gems, many of great beauty and elegance; the total number of specimens may perhaps be roughly estimated at from 2,500 to 3,000. There are, moreover, marbles, medals, specimens of ancient glass, ornaments of gold and silver, and the other ordinary constituents of a classical antiquarian's cabinet, besides a treasure almost new to this country, including ancient painting in fresco. We are sorry to add that the collection is not as yet in England, and that considerable difficulties seem likely to be thrown in the way of its being brought over. If we are rightly informed, a law of the kingdom of the Two Sicilies forbids the exportation of antiquities. There can, of course, be but one opinion on the subject here. We do not wish to interfere with the Kingdom of Naples' right of making laws for her own subjects; but it is intolerable that these laws should be applied to frustrate the patriotic designs and mock the expiring wishes of an Englishman, and that Englishman a servant of the State. We cannot doubt that the action of our Government in the matter will be vigorous and decisive. As Sir W. Temple's brother and executor, Lord Palmerston has a personal as well as a public interest in the affair; and should the Neapolitan authorities persist in their menaced opposition, they will probably find that even the present lowering aspect of their relations with Great Britain is susceptible of a change for the worse.

ANOTHER ROYAL MARRIAGE.—The heir-presumptive to the Crown of Holland—the Prince of Holland—wants an English princess for a wife. It is presumed that his Highness's recent visit to our Court was to see what our princesses are like. His opinion must have been favourable, as the Minister Plenipotentiary at the English Court has received instructions from the Hague to make overtures for a matrimonial alliance.

HOW A DUKE MAY ARISE.—Duels have often been occasioned by trifles. Even such a trifle as a cigar led to the death of an Austrian officer, Lieutenant Meissl, lately. A Prussian officer asked permission to light his cigar at that which he (M. Meissl) was smoking. The request was acceded to, but the Prussian returned the cigar so clumsily that he burnt M. Meissl's fingers. The Austrian officer muttered something about clumsiness, at which the other took offence and challenged him. The challenge was accepted; the parties, who were at Graefenberg, crossed the frontier into Silesia, and at the first shot Lieutenant Meissl was mortally wounded in the lungs.

ANOTHER CASPAR HAUSER STORY.—A letter in the "Allgemeine Zeitung" tells a most romantic story of a girl, who was found in November, 1853, wandering about near the village of Weiskirchen, in the Banat, almost in a savage state, unable to speak intelligibly, though she was full grown. The girl has been carefully educated since that time by Friedrich Eck, the teacher to whom she was confided by the municipal authorities of Offenbach. She is now able to give some account of herself, and the result has been published by Herr Eck, in a pamphlet just printed at Frankfurt. What can be collected from her is, that before she was five years old she was seized and carried away from her mother, who lived, according to her description, in a large house, like a castle, with three towers, and probably situated somewhere in Hungary. For some fifteen or sixteen years afterwards she lived in a place underground, in the midst of a forest, where she was tended by an old woman called Bertha, and a man named Eleazar used to bring food and clothes for both of them. About seven years after her arrival there, a little baby, two or three months old, named Adolf, was brought to the subterranean dwelling, and remained there from that time. No instruction was given to either of the children, but they were kindly treated. In October, 1853, their foster-mother, Bertha, took the girl out of the cavern, put her into a carriage drawn by two horses, and conveyed her to the place where she was abandoned, near Aschaffenburg, whence she wandered about until she was found by the country people. The little boy was left behind in the underground abode. Such is the story which Herr Eck has been able to gather from the girl's broken recollections. The Austrian Government has directed all possible researches to be made by the local authorities to clear up this mysterious affair.

VICTORIA AT NAPOLEON'S TOMB.—Her Majesty has resolved to commemorate her visit to the tomb of Napoleon; and to this end has commissioned Mr. E. M. Ward to represent the event on canvas. The picture will form an appropriate companion to the investiture of the Emperor as Knight of the Garter, on which the same artist is engaged.

THE CANNON BROUGHT FROM SEBASTOPOL TO FRANCE have been placed on the bronze gun-carriages before the railings of the Invalides.

THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEE OF SAN FRANCISCO.

SUCH startling phenomena arise in American society that we are seldom startled by any intelligence from that half of the world. Hon. Members give each other the lie—it does not surprise us. Senators fall on senators like highwaymen; and while we are astounded at the extreme brutality of the deed, we reflect that nowhere save in America could it be perpetrated. But it is not always "to the bad" that these phenomena appear. In California lately, a step was taken by the people, which, for the boldness, precision, and success with which it was carried through, is almost unique; and it also, certainly could not have happened out of America.

San Francisco was made rich by the gold discoveries, but by no means moral. Unheard-of outrages were daily committed in its streets, till at length ruffianism overcame the law, and no man's life was safe, even on the highway. But while on the one hand ruffianism grew strong, there grew also a determination to put it down. Suddenly, the legal arm being still insufficient to reach offenders, the outraged citizens of San Francisco rose by thousands, enrolled themselves into a Vigilance Committee, and appointed an Executive to deal swift justice, and rid the city of its pests. The law was completely superseded; the judges ignored; and the new Executive, supported by the Vigilance Confederation in arms, proceeded at once to carry out the duties imposed on them. We remember how certain culprits were demanded out of the hands of the legal authorities by the Committee, with fixed bayonets and a little park of artillery to back the claim; and how these culprits were solemnly marched to the place where the Executive was sitting, and there summarily tried, condemned, and executed. This was the first scene in the drama; and as the labours of the Committee were inaugurated, so they were carried on, with very wholesome results to the community.

Of course, these proceedings are not altogether to be defended. It is a grave offence to wrest the power of the law from the constituted authorities, and then to administer justice according to the light of Judge Lynch. Still it is clear that, in the anomalous position of San Francisco, such a course was not a little justifiable; if we are to judge from the results, it was at least wholesome.

More remarkable, however, than the formation of the Committee, is its dissolution. Its ends attained—the city purged, by banishment or what not, of the common enemy, the ruffian—the Committee resolved to give back its trust. There was some difficulty in that; there was the difficulty of being made individually responsible for the usurpation of legal power. But the Committee accepted this hazard at its formation, and they did not seek to avoid it by retaining the power they had seized when the purposes for which it had been assumed were accomplished. Therefore they voluntarily disbanded; exhibiting in the ceremony of abdication that the power they resigned was still real as ever. From 6,000 to 10,000 men under arms escorted the members of the Executive from the committee rooms back to their residences, thus making a demonstration of concurrence in the acts of the Committee, which will probably secure its members against any serious trouble from the Federal or State Governments. We do indeed hear that the President of the Committee has been arrested on a charge of rebellion and “piracy,” but by no means anticipate any sweeping measures of that kind.

But however this movement may be viewed in a political sense, it is still most remarkable. And as all its belongings must share the interest which surrounds it, we give this week a representation of the building in which the deliberations of the Committee were held, and the seal with which its acts were verified.



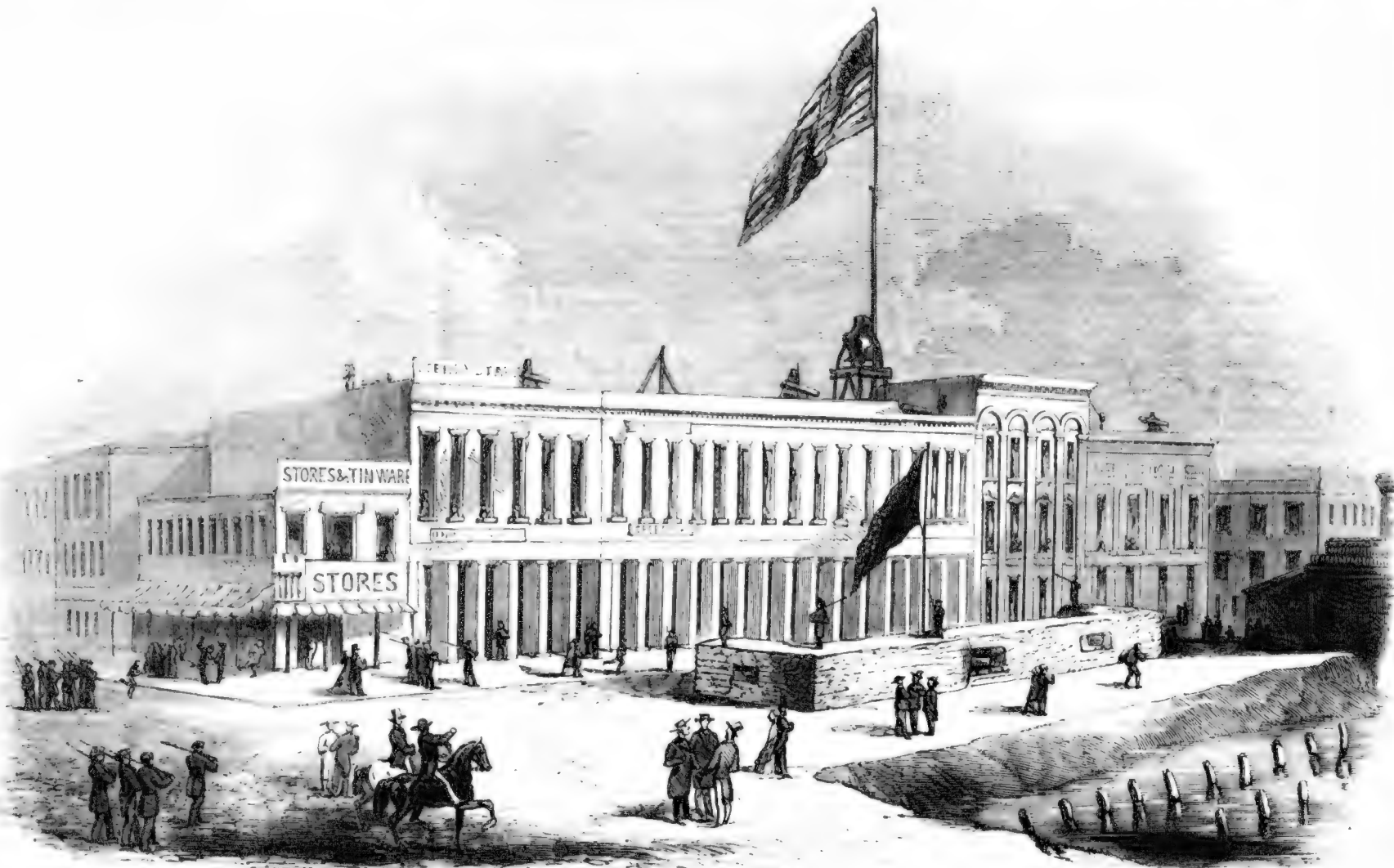
THE SEAL OF THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEE.

obligation, indeed! And an unusually valuable sister. Doubtless the Abode had profit of the poor suicide while she lived; and now by her death it profits also, in the stir (and the—what vulgar word is that which rises in our nostrils?) which it has occasioned. So the persevering and unprejudiced shark, availing himself of the kind companionship of his mate during her existence, carries out his appreciation of her goodness, devouring her when dead. Sweet abode! Sweet shark!—what a precious philosophy is that which can cram its maw with its own laudable feelings, and fatten on its dear departed!

Leaping at the chance, then, forth from their blessed abode came the apostles of the Agapemone, sent abroad innumerable billstickerers, and in every way an impious placard stared from every hoarding. We were at the Hanover Square Rooms; for there “the testimony of what Jesus Christ has done to redeem the earth” was to be “publicly made known.”

Not altogether sorry to behold the imposture face to face—“what we hated needs but to be seen”—we went to those amusement rooms in Hanover Square, and found the place well filled, and with exactly the audience we expected. There were a great many inquiring old ladies, a large number of working men to whom amusement rarely comes so cheap, some of a sprinkling of dissenting ministers, and a few of those individuals who seek every opportunity of getting up their indignation.

Hanover Square Rooms are painted, decorated, and bestuck with looking-glasses, like other concert-rooms—an irreverend place—not good for any religious purpose whatever; and this the audience seemed to be aware of, for when the Brothers appeared, they were welcomed by a stamping of feet and a clapping of hands which carried one's imagination into a thicket at once. This outburst concluded, two desolate-looking persons mounted the naked desert of a platform, and took their seats.



HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEE, AT SAN FRANCISCO.

APOSTLES FROM THE BLEST ABODE!

THE dwellers in the Abode of Love for a long time enjoyed their happiness in seclusion—such seclusion, at any rate, as belongs to some other congeries of the weak and the wicked. And we did hope that the wholesome example which Hanwell furnishes would have been maintained by its kindred institution, the Abode; and that we might be allowed to concur with the Agapemonites in keeping a sort of deplorable silence as to their proceedings.

In this hope we have been disappointed. Unfortunately, one of the poor lambs whom the intemperate wind of Mr. Prince's doctrine had altogether shorn, committed suicide a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, we say, not so much that the wretched creature thus rashly escaped from her delusions into the land where the Mormon cannot corrupt, nor Agapemonites break through and steal, but because a coroner's inquest had to be held; because certain iniquities were darkly revealed in the course of the investigation, filling people's minds with a sentiment of anger and disgust; and because that, in consequence, the Agapemone gained the opportunity of coming forward as a martyr in public opinion. Such an opportunity was the most valuable that could befall Mr. Prince's people, and they owe an eternal obligation to the sister who so obligingly destroyed herself under suspicious circumstances. An eternal



LECTURERS FROM THE AGAPEMONE.

Or these benignant beings (they concealed their names) one was stout, double-chinned, with the little nose which betokens the little mind. The other was thin, and sharp-visaged, his nose precipitating into the aquiline. But they had one point in common, notwithstanding the essential difference of their facial outlines—the formation of the lower jaw was so far identical as to throw the same peculiarity of shadow on each of their faces, and stamp them with the same character. If, instead of “a lock of hair,” those jaws had been sent to us enclosed in an envelope with thirteen postage stamps, in order that we might “read the character” of the parties to whom they belonged, the judgment in each case would have been the same, and equally decided and unfavourable.

After sitting quietly for some minutes, the elder and shorter Apostle rose, and proceeded to deliver his testimony with an impressive though provincial demeanour.

“He supposed that they might have heard speak of Brother Prince. Well, he would tell them about Brother Prince. Some people had said that he was Christ, but they were foolish and wicked; he was a child of wrath by nature, but by grace he became a vessel of mercy.” (Whereat there was a long-drawn whistle.) “Did they know what a vessel was? Well, a jug was a vessel to carry or convey water or milk; a ship was a vessel to transmit or convey merchandise; and Brother Prince was a vessel used to convey mercy. As when the

Law was fulfilled, it was superseded by a new dispensation, that of the Gospel; so the Holy Ghost had now superseded the Gospel in the person of Brother Prince! He, the Holy Ghost, baptised Brother Prince of all self; He purged him thoroughly, and filled him with the fulness of God, and He did this eleven years ago. The Holy Ghost declared that the day of grace was past, that the Gospel was done with, that the last ray of the Gospel mercy had beamed. "He cometh! He cometh! Amen." This, with a doggerel and blasphemous parody on "The Last Rose of Summer," is the substance of the first part of this most indecent performance.

Here the thin brother rose, and amid great demonstrations with his eyeglass, said that he must go back to the beginning of God's days—to the beginning of the world. He paraded an intimate acquaintance with Adam, describing his person minutely. The man then went on to say, that after the fall came the promise of redemption (that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head), and by faith in this promise Adam lived, and died, and went to heaven. Then Christ came to fulfil the promise, and to bear the curse which was ours; and from this it came that everyone who believed in the atonement was saved then and there, his sins forgiven then and there, and he was saved for ever in soul then and there. Still, however, his flesh remained, subject to disease and death, whether the soul believed or not. But God had not left it so; He extended His love to the flesh. The Holy Ghost took flesh as the servant of the Lord. The world refused to see it; even the people at the Agapemone would not see it till they were taught by a reverse of fortune; but the Holy Ghost became the soul of Brother Prince's body, so that Christ could carry out His own love for the world!

At this utter blasphemy, the audience rose at the speaker, hissing and yelling in great excitement. "I speak what I have seen," said the speaker, impassably looking down through his eyeglass upon the uproar; but he had not the courage to give his name, which was loudly demanded. Quiet was restored at length, and the speaker went on to repeat his most offensive language. "What I was going to say," said the lean conspirator against common sense and public decency, "is, that the Holy Ghost, in order to carry out Christ's work, took flesh of woman; and God shows that it is Himself indeed. I know it to be so by the marks of God's character in Brother Prince—a character which is clear and without obscurity."

These blasphemies were altogether too much for the audience. The Brothers were drowned in execrations, and a rush was made upon them by a few of the foremost; on perceiving which, the apostles leisurely retired.

This, then, is the doctrine of the Agapemonites, and we can say in its favour that it is in unison with their lives. From all the dark rumours which have come out of the little kingdom of Mr. Prince, (as veritable a father of his people as the King of Yvetot), it is impossible to doubt that the Agapemonites, if they teach blasphemy, at least endeavour to exhibit their consistency by the practice of vice.

But in a nation of well regulated families, we cannot help feeling that this last matter is important. We are bound to tolerate religious differences, but it does not follow that we are to endure any indecent and scandalous imposture because it is veiled in *irreligion*. The public teaching of the Agapemonites is public indecency, a public outrage, and ought to be brought under the ban of the law.

CORNER FOR THE CURIOUS.—NO. XV.

OLD LONDON SIGNS.

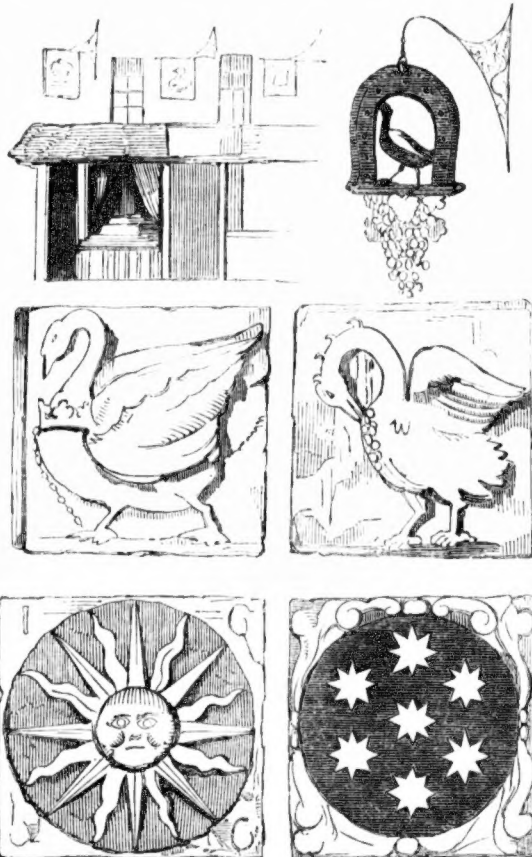
SOME notion of the houses and shops of old London may be gathered by a visit to Bell Yard, near Temple Bar; Great Winchester Street, near the Bank; the wooden houses near Cripplegate Church; and a few other districts which were spared by the great fire of 1666. In Bell Yard, for instance, the national feeling for improvement has from time to time effected change; the lattices of diamond-shaped lead-work, carved pendants, and the projecting signs of the various tradesmen, have disappeared, and here and there sheets of plate glass have been used to give a somewhat modern appearance to the places of business. Still the projecting and massive wood work of the shops, and the peculiar picturesque appearance of the houses, cannot be altogether disguised; and if any of our readers, who may be curious in such matters, will walk up Bailey's Court, on the west side of Bell Yard, he will there see a group of wooden buildings exactly like the great mass which was cleared by the fire. In some of the pictures of London of about this time, the shops of the various tradesmen were chiefly unglazed, and above the door of each was suspended the silver swans; the golden swans; the chained swans; the golden heads; mitres; bells—black, red, white, and blue; rising and setting suns; moons of different phases; men in the moon; sceptres; crowns; and many other devices which even at that time were necessary to distinguish one shop from another. The chequers; St. George and the Dragon; royal oaks; king's heads; and double signs, such as the horse-shoe and magpie; bell and crown; bell and horns; and such like, were more particularly set apart for the use of the various hostellers. Everyone, however, who had a London shop of any kind or consequence, had his sign. Many of them were well carved in wood, and ornamented with embazonary and gilding.

No doubt if it were possible to find at the present time the same picturesque architectural displays as were to be met with in London in Queen Elizabeth's days, our artistic friends would be able to pick up many a nice subject for their pencils, but in those days there were plenty of drawbacks; the pavement was bad, the drainage was worse, and from the eaves of the houses and pents of the shops streams of water ran down in wet weather upon the wayfarers, and by lodging in the thoroughfares made the London streets something in the same state as those of Agar Town and some other neglected parts of the metropolis. We must not forget that in the days to which we allude there were no flagged foot-paths, and that the only distinction from the horse and cart roads and that for foot-passengers was a separation by wooden posts, which, in genteel places, were made supports for chains. People, however, got



FETE AT GERVILLE, ALGERIA.

tired of this bad state of things, and measures were taken to put a stop to the streams of water from the roofs, &c. After the Great Fire an enactment was made for an alteration in the spouts, &c.; all barbers' poles, and projecting signs, and other projections were to be done away with, and other changes made for the better. Up to the reign of Queen Anne, we find by reference to views of Cheapside and the neighbourhood of the Monument, that the projecting signs were still in use; and that even at that recent date many of the London shops in the important neighbourhoods above mentioned were without glazing, and looked much like some of the greengrocers' sheds in use now in Bermondsey and some other places.



OLD LONDON SIGNS.

Severe measures seem to have been at length taken against the projecting signs, and most of them disappeared, and then it became a most difficult matter either to address letters or find a man's shop. In Dr. Johnson's day, he and other persons gave the address "over against" a particular sign, or so many doors from such a sign. In consequence of this uncertainty, many houses in London, which from their association with eminent men would possess much interest now, cannot be pointed out; and it was a wonderful benefit to the metropolis when the plan of numbering the houses in each street was hit upon. But for this, considering that the population has doubled in the last fifty years, it is difficult to know how the genius of Rowland Hill would have worked his plan of London post office delivery, or business could be carried on with any kind of comfort.

The booksellers and publishers seem to have been the last, with the exception of the tavern keepers, to give up the old signs. After the great fire, some of the ancient signs which were cut in stone, and which had escaped the conflagration, were got out of the ruins and afterwards placed in the front of the plain, yet solid, brick buildings which were erected after that event. Some of these—the "Chained Bear," the "Collared Swan," the "Moon and Seven Stars," and "Sun," in Cheapside, and some others which we now engrave—are still preserved. The carved wooden sign of the "Man in the Moon" in Wyck Street, Strand, is a rare example; and the "Horse-shoe and Magpie" in Fetter Lane, is one of the last of the suspended signs to be now found in the City.

Amongst the painted signs of London taverns worth notice, is one in Oxford Street (nearly opposite Rathbone Place), said to have been painted by Hogarth. The subject is "a man loaded with mischief." He has a stout woman on his shoulders, together with a monkey, magpie, etc. The male figure shown in this street picture seems to bear up pretty well under his burden.

FETE AT GERVILLE, ALGERIA.

It is now well nigh four years since Marshal Pelissier, Duke de Malakoff, at that time a general of division in command of the province of Oran, arrived at El-Biod at the head of a large body of troops, and pitched his tent on the spot now occupied by the Fort of Gerville. He had left Oran with

the determination to establish in the centre of the tribes of Sahara a station to keep them in check. Pelissier laid the first stone of the new fort, and left upwards of 600 men under the command of Lieutenant de Colomb, whom he instructed to organise and govern the Arab tribes of Sahara.

In August, 1854, the fort was ready to receive the garrison. Captain de Colomb, the officer in command, wishing to open it on the 15th, the Fête de l'Empereur, invited the goums of the district. This, the first fête of Gerville, brought together upwards of 2,000 horsemen of different tribes, who a few years previously were continually at war, but who now, being ruled by a friendly administration, supported by a firm authority, met as friends and in peace.

This year, 1856, every preparation was made at Gerville for the fête—15th of August. The whole garrison assisted in preparing the field in which the fête was to be held. A large framework of timber, covered with rich Arab carpets, was erected for the use of the ladies, the staff officers, and the Arabs of rank. On the top of this building was placed a gigantic eagle, surmounted with an Imperial crown, which seemed destined to protect under its outspread wings this handful of French adventurers, three hundred miles away from the sea coast, and in the midst of two thousand armed horsemen who were gathering around them.

On the 13th, the Arabs arriving, pitched their camp in the form of a horse-shoe. On the 14th, a city of tents of every form and colour, inhabited by nearly three thousand people and more than two thousand horses, presented a scene grand in the extreme.

On the 15th, at sunrise, and while the guns were firing from the bastions of the fort, Captain de Colomb, accompanied by his officers and a few Spahis, reviewed the Arabs, formed in two lines. After the review there was a concert, which lasted till nine o'clock.

At two o'clock commenced the games, which consisted of jumping in sacks and of firing at targets, some two hundred Arabs, reputed marksmen, being eclipsed by a gunner of the garrison.

At sunset, a balloon, eighteen feet high, constructed of different coloured paper, was sent up, to the great terror of several of the Arabs, who ran and saddled their horses; but the jeers of their more courageous brethren deterred them from a hasty retreat. In the evening a dinner was given by the Commandant of the Fort. Toasts were drunk to the Emperor and the Imperial family, to the prosperity of Gerville, and to its founder, Marshal Pelissier. The evening's amusements terminated with Arab games and dances.

NEW WEAPONS OF WAR.—Some new weapons of war, invented or improved by Americans, have come under public notice recently—"The first is the 'cavalry pistol carbine.' The distinguishing feature is a detached butt, which will ordinarily be suspended at the side by a shoulder strap, but may be instantly fixed to the pistol, converting it into a carbine with a rifled bore of the same diameter as the musket, so that one kind of ammunition will answer for both, and doing good execution at 500 yards, though the barrel is but twelve inches in length. The newly modelled 'rifled musket' is another weapon which is justly regarded with much interest, as it is likely to supersede entirely the army musket now in use. It differs from the old pattern in several important particulars, the bore being smaller, and rifled; the barrel is shorter; it requires less powder, and will carry 1,000 yards with great accuracy and penetration. The musket is rifled with a decreasing groove, 100th of an inch from the breech to the muzzle, making one revolution in six feet."

THE REDUCTION IN THE ARMY.—The reduction in the army took place definitely last week, when one lieutenant-colonel, four junior captains, and the junior lieutenants below the fourteenth (exclusive of the adjutant) in each battalion that was increased to a war complement, were placed on half-pay. The two junior captains of each regiment of cavalry (with the exception of the 6th Dragoon Guards, 9th and 12th Lancers, and 14th Light Dragoons, now serving in India) were likewise placed on the half-pay of their respective corps.

The Sphinx.

CHARADE.

MR. TERENCE O'DWYER'S ACCOUNT OF A RECENT IMPOSING CEREMONY.

I.

EDITOR'S PREFACE.*

THOUGH they know us in all climes,
By the mighty name of "Times,"
Yet our pictures and our rhymes—
Leaders too—
Give us quite a different tone,
To the other paper known
By the name we're proud to own,
As we do.

For you see, we don't depend
On the opening or end
Of the season people spend
In Cockayne.
All our columns we can glut,
Though the Commons House be shut,
And the stylish folks have "cut"
O'er the main.

We are not obliged to spin
Yarns on herring bone and fin,
Nor each morning to put in
Letters long,
About foreign street or park,
Or to prove that niggers dark
Look on slavery as a lark,
Not a wrong.

Still, our boasting let us stint,
For the opposition print
Has some decent writing in 't,
Now and then.
And right royally dictates
To the council- and debates
Of societies and states,
Kings and men.

And besides, they've Mr. Russell,
Strong in intellectual muscle,
Who describes a show or "tussle"
Passing well.
Whom to snub as merely "skilful,"
Is ingratitude most wilful,
As their banker's-book and till-full
Ought to tell.

Well—no matter! who's afraid?
In the London paper trade,
Other firms as well have played
P'raps—their cards.
We've a correspondent too,
From the isle of emerald hue,
Who would not be thought "B, 2"
Amongst bards.

He's a rolling, roving blade,
Over half the world he's stray'd
Seeking change, with unallayed
Burning thirst.
Somewhat prone to boast and "blather,"
If that Truth be Proverb's father,
Ne'er a fibre will he gather,
Of my first.

He a long account has spun
Of some recent goings on,
Of descriptions by the ton,
Worthy reckon'd.
Yet defies he all the brood
Of the scribbling brotherhood,
For no living writer could
Him—my second.

II.

HERE BEGINS MR. O'DWYER'S FULL, TRUE, AND PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT GLORIOUS, ETC., ETC.

Oh! the Coronation! what celebration
For the Russian nation and the British press!
On the glorious Sunday, which was like a Monday,
For a feast and fun-day, neither more nor less.
What with Esterhazy, in his diamonds blazy,
Fit to drive you crazy—and the dust and work,
And the crowd and scrunch, oh! and the fruit-and-bun show,
And the Papal Nuncio, and the haythen Turk!

There was Count de Morny, with half Californy
In his carriage tawny, like a red-hot bar
On the goldsmith's anvil; and the Earl of Granville,
With his Countess sitting in their lowback'd-car,
Less grand and flash'y; and my young lord Ashley,
With Sir Robert's Tiger, and his bride so fair,
Whose charms kill dead words; and Sutherland Edwards
A taking notes as if he didn't care!

Oh, the height the Mosque is! and the price of droskies!
And the peckers wolloping the mujiks poor;
With the bearded bishops, and the dry salt-fish shops,
With the pickled cucumbers outside the door.
And the Queen Amelia, of famed Mingrelia,
Who begg'd of your servant her dress to praise;
'T would be worth a thaler if young Mистер Sala
Had stay'd in Rooshia just a few more days.

Mighty Alexander! the elect commander
Of sixty millions—who don't own their souls!
To observe that sovereign his august pate covering
With a crown he handled just like red-hot coals!
Then to see him shift it—(he could scarcely lift it,)
And pretend to put it on his sweet wife's head,
Which to wear she loath was—and knocked up they both was,
For the poor young crnytres hadn't been to bed!

Then the owld Zarina—faix! you should have seen her!—
Who forgot her manners in her height of joy;
Says she, "Oh bother! sure, aint I his mother?"
Get out of that—and let me kiss my boy!"
Then to watch the cuddling—and the young dukes huddling
Round Papa's clean trousers—sure my eyes grew dim,
At the sight infantine—but the Duke Constantine,
He look'd as if he'd rather it was him.

Then they had to oil him (that's the Czar); to spoil him,
(What a shame!) and soil him; for the tailor's nose
What a sad disappointment and a disappointment
When they dab'd the ointment on the fine new clothes!
Then the anthem swelling and the people yelling,
And the incense smelling like spiced butter'd toast—
And the dreadful bustle made by Mистер Russell,
Likewise Mистер Edwards, all to catch the post.

* For the benefit of people of defective vision, who are unable to see a joke, the Editor thinks it necessary to repudiate any share in the composition of this Charade.

Then the banquet splendid—I of course attended—
(And I saw it ended, you your oath may take),
Where the gracious Emperor, in the sweetest temper e'er
Display'd by monarch, tried to keep awake,
After all night watching—at the ducks and Cochin
Still his knife kept notching—I'd my eyes on him;
But his brow grew murky when they brought him Turkey,
For he vow'd he wouldn't touch a single limb.

Oh! the stews and hashings, and the drink in hashings,
And the tumbler smashings (never charged in bill!)—
And the toast and glee time which went on till tea-time,
When the Czar felt poorly and his lady ill.
(Troth, he looked a low cup!) then the meeting broke up;
Then for stick and cloak up we'd to stir the hall.
Faith, 'twas aggravating—but some Lord-in-Waiting
Had changed my hat for ne'er a one at all!

Oh! the fireworks blazing, and the people gazing
At the sight amazing of a town in flame;
Yet so used to burning, ne'er a feather turning
(Though the rice of whisky was a broiling shame).
And the wooden houses, and the girls and spouses
In scarlet petticoats and flat cloth caps;
While Cossack Vandals never touch'd the candles:
I quite esteemed the self-denying chaps.

Sure the Mosque Saint Basil was a sight to dazzle,
Like a congreve warehouse burning in a lump.
And Ma'amelle Cerito, who shook the merry toe
To a tune of several thousand francs per jump.
Quite late we sat up—but you'll get all that up
Without the wasting of my precious rhymes.
For as we went bedwards, there was Russell and Edwards
A-taking notes, like mad, for both the "Times!"

III.

There you have O'Dwyer's lay
(Which—to mention by the way—
He omitted to prepay
Sending home)
Of his observations droll,
When his ever-restless soul
To the regions of my whole,
Made him roam.

THE ASSASSINATION OF CAPTAIN GRAVES AT MALTA.—VERDICT.—A Maltese jury has been bold enough to save the assassin of Captain Graves from the gallows. The story is too fresh in the recollection of the public to need more than the barest recapitulation. The Maltese boatmen are, as a class, most troublesome and annoying, and it became the duty of the late Captain Graves, in his character of Superintendent of the Port of Valetta, to maintain order among them. Now, a certain boatman named Giuseppe Meli had been guilty of extorting from an artillery officer named Ingleside a higher fare than was his due. As a punishment for this offence, Captain Graves had directed that his boat should be drawn up on the beach, and that the offender should not be allowed to ply for hire for a fortnight. Meli, on his side, in revenge, determined to murder Captain Graves. He set about the assassination in the most cold-blooded and determined manner. On the 25th of August last, he followed Captain Graves about from spot to spot, until at length he tracked him to the Chief Secretary's office. As his victim was stepping into a caliche opposite this office, Meli crept behind him, seized him round the body from behind with one hand, and with the other dealt him a stab in the belly. Independently of other testimony, the facts so far rest upon the confession, or rather upon the repeated boasts, of the boatman Meli himself. But at his trial there was medical evidence to show that Captain Graves did not die for some time after the wound had been inflicted; and an opinion was given that death had ensued from improper medical treatment. On this evidence, the jury returned the following most unsatisfactory verdict:—"Guilty of severe bodily harm, wilfully inflicted upon the person of Captain Thomas Graves, followed by death, owing to a supervening accidental cause, and not of the nature or consequences alone of such harm." The assassin was ultimately condemned to labour at the public works for a period of nine years, this being the utmost stretch of punishment which the Judge was able to award as a consequence of the finding of the jury.

A SOLDIER WOUNDED BY A COMRADE.—Last week two men, Shaw and Wilson, of the 1st Dragoon Guards, at Exeter, got quarrelling. Shaw being intoxicated, struck Wilson a blow in the face, on which the latter took up a poker, and said that if he did it again, he would give him "something with that." Shaw was advancing for the purpose of repeating the blow, when Wilson struck him with the poker, producing such injuries that the poor fellow died on the following morning.

A CLERGYMAN CHARGED WITH THEFT.—A charge of stealing a plum was brought the other day, at Hailsham, Sussex, against the Rev. Sir John Calne Seymour, Bart., and J. H. C. Seymour, Esq., his son. The Rev. Sir John Seymour and his son went to a garden, intending to purchase some fruit. They called for the gardener, but he did not come, and while they were waiting they picked three plums and one peach between them. The gardener then made his appearance, and they went up to him, and stated that they had picked some fruit, and desired to know how much they had to pay. The gardener was very angry at their picking the fruit without his leave, and brought this charge. The defendants were fined 1s. and costs.

THE STABBING CASE IN NORTHUMBERLAND.—Last week we announced that a pedlar named Cawthorne had in a quarrel stabbed another man several times in the bowels. We have now to add, that though the wounds were at once pronounced deadly, the poor fellow, being of an exceedingly strong constitution, survived for several days, when inflammation supervened, and he died in great agony. His name was Cunningham. Cawthorne is in custody, charged with wilful murder.

ACCIDENT AT A MENAGERIE.—An alarming accident occurred on Saturday night at Batty's Menagerie. A man imprudently approached too near the den of one of the tigers, when the animal suddenly struck him across the face with its paw, inflicting a fearful laceration. A scene of considerable confusion ensued among the scared spectators, while the wounded man was carried out bleeding profusely.

THE LATE "ABDUCTION EXTRAORDINARY."—We are informed that it is the intention of the Rev. Gentleman who figured as principal in this transaction to bring the matter into a superior court, which we infer means the institution of a suit in the Ecclesiastical Court for the "restitution of conjugal rights." The lady, though forcibly captured by her husband, was speedily again at liberty. On the day succeeding she was permitted to remove to the residence of a near relative of the Rev. Gentleman in Hampshire, with the understanding that in a few days she was to return. What occurred there it is unnecessary to surmise; but in two days afterwards the lady was seen at the Reading station of the Great Western Railway, as a passenger by the departing train; and the threatened proceedings sufficiently show that the lady is now somewhere beyond the control of her husband.

WIFE BEATING ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE.—The Rev. George Bird is preaching at Whitehaven, and holding forth the doctrine that it is perfectly scriptural for a man to beat his wife; he is said to have a considerable congregation. One of his flock was lately taken before the magistrates for ill-using his wife; the injured woman said she had no wish her husband should be punished if he would promise not to ill-use her badly again. When asked by the magistrates whether he would make the requisite promise, he refused, saying, "Am I to obey the laws of God or the laws of man?" As he would not give the promise the magistrates committed him to prison for a month, with hard labour. The Rev. Mr. Bird has since delivered a course of lectures on the subject of Scott's conviction. He contends that it is a man's duty to rule his own household; and that if his wife refuses to obey his orders, he is justified, according to the law of God, in beating her in order to enforce obedience.

EXTRAORDINARY RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—A singular and serious railway accident occurred at Fisherton on Monday evening. The driver of the first engine of a cattle train (there were two engines) from Wilton to Salisbury, on coming near the Fisherton station, did not shut off the steam in time. The engine rushed on, knocked down the northern portion of the platform, and tore its way through the station. The foremost engine broke down the immense wooden piles and buffers at the end of the rails, carried away nine or ten feet of the platform, and burst through the station, crushing doors, walls, and every other object in its progress; even the outer wall towards Fisherton was broken down before it came to a standstill. Mays, the driver, escaped unhurt through the breach formed by the engine; but the driver and stoker of the second engine were both killed, and several other persons were injured. The trucks were heaped together in a mass, and many of the sheep were cut to pieces.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT TO A FRENCH COUNTESS.—At her chateau in Marly, recently, the Countess Charles de Fitzjames having trodden upon a lucifer match, her dress caught fire. She at once ran towards the sea, which was some distance from her residence, and her progress naturally increased the intensity of the flame. She was severely burned, but happily her life is not in danger.

LAW AND CRIME.

LORD ERNEST VANE TEMPEST has returned from the Crimea, whither, it may be remembered, he was sent to get him out of the way after a murderous attack on the manager of a theatre who ventured to remonstrate against his Lordship's forcing himself into the ladies' dressing-room. Accordingly, his Lordship possesses once more an opportunity of displaying that peculiar prowess which does not appear to have led to any remarkable results during the campaign. His Lordship's last recorded exploit, although not remarkable for originality (being in fact a mere reproduction of the one joke which formerly comprised the vivacity of the 44th Regiment), will go far to uphold his Lordship's previously acquired reputation. It is said that a clergyman's son, who has obtained a commission in his Lordship's regiment (the 4th Light-) has been making himself obnoxious to his brother officers by propriety of behaviour. Accordingly, after several minor annoyances, his comrades burst open his door a few nights since, and submitted him to indignities similar to those committed upon Lieutenant Perry. It is reported that the levity of the Lights went so far as to lead them to shave one side of their victim's face, the idea of his subsequently shaving the other, and thus neutralising the sting of the jest, being one not likely to occur to them. However, at present no particulars of the sport are to be implicitly believed; it is only known that Lord Ernest Vane Tempest, Captain Burt (the hero of a recent assault upon a solicitor who interfered on behalf of a lady under his protection in opposition to the Captain's gallantry), and a Cornet Winstanley, as yet unknown to fame, have been placed under arrest. Their swords have been temporarily removed, so that, as the public will be delighted to hear, there will be no fear of accidents when the gallant gentlemen are left to themselves. Add to this that, if the worst come to the worst, peace has been proclaimed since his Lordship's last affair, so that he cannot be sent out again to fight.

Poor Mr. Savage Landon has been committing himself once more, by offering to pay £95 out of his sole remaining £100 towards the family of any person who shall first commit the "duty" of tyrannicide. As to what constitutes a tyrant, that must be left to the judgment of Mr. Savage Landon. If this principle is to obtain in states, why not in factories and private families? As Mr. Landon's proposal has already been afforded extensive publicity, there can be no harm in commenting upon it; but surely severe censure ought to attach to that journal which first assisted by publication the incitement to felony put forward by this sanguinary but senile capitalist.

The Royal British Bank has issued circulars to a portion, if not all of its depositors, requesting a statement of the amount due to each, and containing also a blank form of proposal to accept such composition, and within such time, as the creditor may be willing to fill in. Several of the claims have been sold by auction, some of them realising 13s. 4d. in the pound. A correspondent of a daily journal suggests that these should be bought by shareholders, in order that their own liabilities should be reduced by the set-off. This hint should, however, be received with caution. If the plan be feasible, in respect of a composition, it would be so for full payment, and any one owing unpaid capital, might pay the amount to a friend, or more, who had lost deposits, and who might thus receive payment in full, in preference to other creditors, should the body of contributories fail to satisfy all demands. It is not probable that after the filing of a petition under the winding-up acts, such a transaction would be sanctioned by the Court of Chancery. Another point is likely to arise in connection with this bank. Certain shares have been applied for in consequence of an announcement of a dividend at a time when the bank was insolvent in capital. It will be argued that this contract being the result of fraud and misrepresentation, is thereby void according to the rule of equity in that respect. How far this defence will be available in the present instance, remains to be tried. The blackest point in the transactions of this Bank, has, we believe, not yet been made public. It is said, that only a few days before payment was stopped, a circular was sent to the shareholders, setting forth the prosperous condition of the concern, and soliciting their recommendation of it to their friends and connections!

The many recent complaints against the efficiency of the police have evidently stimulated the force to increased activity and sharpness. A policeman at Basingstoke having received intelligence that a thief with a parcel containing stolen boots and shoes was to be expected by the coming up-train, and having no information to enable him to identify the package or thief, inquired at the window of several successive carriages for the owner of a lot of boots and shoes loose among the luggage. The trick soon discovered the claimant, who, on asserting his right to the property, was at once taken into custody. A cart being driven along Holborn at a rapid rate excited the suspicion of the police on duty, who gave chase, and, although the driver escaped, a large quantity of beds, pillows, &c., evidently the proceeds of a robbery, was seized. It would surely not be very difficult by means of the horse and cart to trace the owners. An established and central office for the exhibition of property found upon or in the possession of thieves would be a valuable adjunct to our police system, and lead to the identification of many an offender. Numbers of victims drawn to the spot by curiosity (for the museum would soon become a lion) would be enabled to establish a claim to lost watch, jewellery, &c., which few people ever dream of going after to a particular station to inspect, when they read that a haul has been made at the lodgings of a thief, or the establishment of a noted receiver. What becomes of the numerous articles captured under such circumstances, and never claimed by the owners?

George Braun, while drunk, went into the Fox and Hounds public-house, Shoreditch, and, on the landlord's refusal to supply him with more liquor, leaped upon the counter and endeavoured to stab the host with a clasp knife. Three bystanders interfered at peril of their lives, and although they overpowered the ruffian (one of the German Legion, by-the-by, of whom the police magistrates hear so much), were all severely wounded. One man had his finger nearly cut off. Mr. Hammill fined the hired defender of the British Crown £5. What such a decision meant no lawyer can say. The charge involved at least one attempt to murder and three cases of maliciously cutting and wounding. If English blood be so cheap as Mr. Hammill appears to imagine, why need the gang known as the German Legion be invited or retained among us at all? Every now and then some act is committed by one of the fraternity to remind us of their resemblance to certain generally inimically disposed personages of whom the only description we possess informs us that "their name is Legion." However, it is reported that George Braun was unable to pay the fine, his term of imprisonment in default being two months. But what has the mere accident of a man's being able or not to pay a pecuniary fine to do with his criminality? If nothing, then why fine at all? As it is, George Braun will have his two months, not for having been a reckless murderous ruffian in action, but for not having £5 at command.

Two policemen swore that they were served with ale drawn at the bar of the "Coachmakers' Arms," Paddington, at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning, having followed in after two men, each of whom were served, and that they moreover saw three other men regaling over a pot of ale in the tap-room. On the other hand it was distinctly sworn that the pipes of the tap were out of order, and a plumber who went to mend them deposed that the policemen who followed him were refused the ale they asked for. This evidence was corroborated, but the charge was simply dismissed. There must have been gross perjury, capable of easy proof, on one side or the other, and yet the false witnesses are thus allowed to escape by a convenient verdict which saves the trouble of further inquiry. Suppose it possible that the policemen were in the wrong, who can say that his liberty or character in their beat is worth an hour's purchase?

POLICE.

A DELICATE CASE.—Mr. Arthur Henry Welch appeared on remand at Bow Street, on Tuesday, to answer a charge of libel against a lady to whom he had been paying his addresses. On the first examination a compromise was proposed, and a form of agreement drawn up; but when it came to be signed, the defendant was nowhere to be found. It now transpired that Mr. Welch, supposing that the arrangement was to be made at his counsel's chambers, repaired thither. On this second appearance the case was not gone into before the Magistrate, but the arrangement, as at first proposed, was agreed to—the defendant agreeing to give up all the lady's letters, and every token or favour received by him during their engagement; and further, to cease all communication.

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